



English Department Overview (Updated June 2026)



The English Department is driven by two core aims:

- To ensure every student develops a sophisticated understanding of literacy and becomes a confident, capable reader.
- To foster curiosity and critical enquiry through the study of both English Language and English Literature, using a diverse range of literary and non-fiction texts.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, the department delivers a high-quality curriculum based on the most effective elements of the revised National Curriculum, with an emphasis on stretching and challenging higher-achieving students. This framework underpins learning across KS3, Years 7 to 9.

- **Years 7 and 8** are taught in mixed-ability form groups of approximately 32 students.
- **Year 9** students are restructured into six smaller classes of around 27, enabling more targeted teaching.

A love of reading is central to our ethos. We work closely with the Learning Resources Manager and Librarians to implement the Accelerated Reader Programme and Star Reader Quizzes. Students in Years 7 to 9 engage with these reading initiatives both during dedicated lesson time and through homework tasks.

Key Stage 4

At KS4, students follow the AQA GCSE specifications for both English Language and English Literature. Our co-teachable, skills-based curriculum is carefully designed to enable every student to achieve their best in both subjects.

Sixth Form

In the Sixth Form, we offer:

- **AQA A Level English Language (7702)**
- **AQA A Level English Literature B (7717B)**

These linear qualifications are delivered by experienced subject specialists who also teach across Key Stages 3 and 4, ensuring continuity and depth in student learning.

Staffing and Leadership

The department is led by **Joanne Lord**, Senior Academic Lead (Head of Department), supported by **Tanwen Fisk**, Second in English (KS3 Coordinator) and Head of Drama.

Our team includes five additional subject specialist teachers, each bringing unique strengths and expertise. We collaborate closely to share ideas, resources, and best practices to continually enhance the quality of teaching and learning.

A Level English Literature Specialists:

- Joanne Lord
- Eleanor Jeffery
- Lori Pettefar
- Gail Dowson

A Level English Language Specialists:

- Joanne Lord
- Eleanor Jeffery
- Lori Pettefar

English Teachers with other roles:

- **Ella O'Sullivan** – Literacy Coordinator; teaches English across KS3 and KS4
- **Lara Ray** – KS4 Specialist and Assistant Headteacher

Classes are distributed equitably, ensuring that A Level teaching is aligned with staff expertise and qualifications. All level teachers teach across KS3 and KS4.

Our Ethos

The English Department is a collaborative, dedicated, and forward-thinking team. We are committed to continuous professional growth and innovation, with the shared goal of providing all students with a dynamic, enriching experience of English—both as an academic subject and as a vital tool for life.