



## The English Department 2023 -24

(Updated September 2023)

The aims of the English Department are two-fold:

- Every student will achieve a sophisticated grasp of literacy and be able readers.
- All students will develop curiosity and enquiry skills, learning about English Language and English Literature through Literary and Non-fiction texts.

At Key Stage 3, the department aims to deliver the best aspects of the revised National Curriculum as they apply to higher-achieving students, to frame learning in Years 7 to 9.

Years 7 to 8 are taught in mixed ability form groups of approximately 30 and in Year 9 they are reorganised into 6 classes of approximately 25 students, allowing for smaller teaching classes. As a department we aim to promote a love of reading, therefore we have close working links with the school's Learning Resources Manager and Librarians. They assist teachers of English to co-ordinate the Accelerated Reader Programmes and Star Reader Quizzes, students spend allocated lesson and some homework time on this programme in Years 7, 8 and 9.

In KS4 the students follow the AQA Specifications for both English Language and English Literature. The curriculum plan is co-teachable and skills based, with the intention of students gaining best possible grades in both GCSEs.

In the Sixth Form, we offer both A Level English Language and A Level Literature. For Language we follow the AQA linear (7702) specification and for Literature we follow the Literature B (7716) specification.

The Senior Head of Department and Academic Lead is Joanne Lord, Second in English (KS3 coordinator) and Head of Drama is Tanwen Fisk, there are five additional subject specialist English teachers within the Department, all of whom are passionate about the subject. Each specialist brings a particular strength to the department, collaboratively sharing information, ideas and resources to generate great teaching and learning opportunities.

The teaching team are talented academics who have a specialist subject knowledge for teaching across the key stages. A Level English Literature specialists are: Joanne Lord, Eleanor Jeffery, Gail Dowson and Lori Pettefar. We are also fortunate to have specialist A Level English Language teachers: Joanne Lord, Eleanor Jeffery and Lori Pettefar. The A level team teach across KS3, KS4 and KS5. Ella O' Sullivan teaches KS3 and KS4. Lara Ray is a subject specialist KS4; she is also an Assistant Head teacher. Teaching, and the distribution of classes is divided equitably between all teachers of English, whilst being mindful of specialisms at A-Level.

Members of the Department are dedicated and friendly team, who work collaboratively generating the best outcomes for all stakeholders. We are a progressive professionals who are always looking to improve and learn, to ensure that all students have an exciting and fulfilling experience of English as a subject, and as a tool for life.