

English



English is a subject evolving like the ever-changing landscape; forever shifting, altering and developing. Like any other language, English is an exciting language, underpinning all disciplines; developing with the world around us especially with the introduction of new technology in this 21st century age of technology and scientific development. In the English department at GCA we embrace these changes and strive to help develop our students' understanding of the importance of English in the world around them and as a subject in the present context, the past context and the future context. Through the study of our subject we aim to develop the whole-child in which students are enriched and inspired culturally, morally and spiritually. Ultimately, as a department, we have a passion to develop mature, responsible, independent, thoughtful and confident young people who are well equipped and prepared for their futures.

The English team is a committed team of teachers who share the vision of providing a relevant and inspiring curriculum to each and every student no matter what their starting point on arrival at GCA. We understand that every student has the potential to succeed and we strive to unlock that potential by providing well planned, thoughtful and engaging lessons at all times. In order to fulfil our aims and to create successful individuals, our curriculum is carefully and rigorously planned over the five-year secondary school journey being ever mindful of previous KS2 learning and future learning choices at KS5. We aim to expose our students to a breadth of fiction and non-fiction texts ranging from 16th - 21st century to reflect both the Language and Literature curricula. These curricula are constantly and proactively reviewed to ensure that we achieve our aims. We carefully select our texts in order to facilitate and encourage **oracy, comprehension and writing** skills in relation to different topics. The aim is to engage our students and to encourage confidence in them allowing our students to become **fluent communicators** both in oracy and the written word – skills required in all aspects and settings of adulthood no matter what their chosen career path. In the English classroom our students are exposed to a rich and varied literary canon ranging from Shakespeare to Dickens and the Brontes to Blackman as the schemes of work across KS3 and KS4 include a variety of genres and topics including exposure to female authors across the centuries and authors of other cultures. Fundamentally, we endeavour to foster an appreciation that a text (of any nature) is a conscious construct – a product of the context in which it was written and to appreciate its purpose.