

ENGLISH

We believe that every student can be successful in English and our goal is to create learners who enjoy the subject, achieve strong outcomes, and succeed in their next stage of life. Our intention in English is to equip students with the reading, writing and oracy skills needed to be academically successful, whilst preparing them for the next stage of their life, either at college or taking apprenticeships, and in the real world. We aim to enable our students to develop their vocabulary skills to become strong and effective communicators. We strive to create a life long love of reading, poetry and creative writing in our students.

The key principles that underpin our curriculum are to be engaging, exposing our students to real world issues, debates, and topics; to be cultural enriching, inviting our students to respond respectfully, sensitively, and emotionally; to be knowledge and skills rich, to enable our students to strive for excellence.

Curriculum

We have an ambitious, well-sequenced, spiral curriculum which is rich in knowledge and skills. Each unit builds on the previous unit and where applicable, teachers make links to establish and encode connections to make a clear network of understanding. Our curriculum is enhanced through visiting speakers/authors/poets through the school's literature festival; it is further enriched through theatre visits, participating in Lancashire Book of the Year, creative writing clubs, book clubs and a plethora of writing competitions throughout the year which are open to all students.

In KS3, in line with the National Curriculum for English, and at GCSE, students study a range of challenging and culturally diverse texts, exploring big issues allowing students to develop their empathy and understanding skills. These texts become a springboard for writing for different purposes and audiences harnessing the power of words. Reading is fundamental to our curriculum, and we drive the importance of reading regularly, along with explicit development of vocabulary.

In English we endeavour to develop key employability skills such as: working to deadlines, valuing diversity and difference, acquiring the ability to learn and adapt but also teamwork and communication is interwoven and developed throughout all our schemes of work across every year group to ensure our students are well rounded citizens who are wholly prepared for the world of work.

VISION AND PURPOSE

Our pedagogy is underpinned by Rosenshine’s Principles of Instruction. We connect prior learning, use explicit modelling in our teaching, break tasks down into manageable chunks, use probing questions to check for understanding, clarify and deepen understanding, using guided and supported practice before moving to independent practice, and use agile feedback strategies to support our learners at key points within their learning. All of this is supported and consistent with latest educational research.

Teachers in the English department know and value that a one-size does not fit all, so lessons are tailored to suit students’ diverse needs: students are supported to achieve the best they can with challenging learning aims and expectations. Teachers understand and champion the power of a growth mindset and the importance of “not yet”.

The English department uses a range of feedback and assessment strategies to ensure that learning is well matched to learning needs: addressing misconceptions, targeting gaps in knowledge, developing and deepening knowledge. Feedback and assessment wholly informs future planning.