

THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The English Department at The Stonehenge School is one of the key areas within the school, and has been quickly developing into one of the beacons. The last two Ofsted inspections have praised the extent to which students make progress especially in terms of English and literacy.

The department is managed by the Head of English, supported by the Deputy Subject Leader who is mainly responsible for KS4, and a KS3 coordinator. The department works together as a team, characterised by a sense of vibrancy, forward thinking, and a great deal of fun. The team also works together to promote literacy across the school, taking every opportunity to inject extended writing, the development of speaking and listening skills, and reading for pleasure into the lives of the students and staff.

At KS3 students study schemes of work which are devised by the department to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum. All units are structured to allow students to make the most progress, recording a clear starting point; using formative marking to enhance progress at the mid-point or 'mini-milestone', which is used to inform future planning; building skills to a final assessment where progress made is explored. The English department is fully committed to developing every pupil's facility for English to the full, whatever his or her age or ability. To this end a variety of teaching and learning methods is encouraged using a wide range of literature and other resources.

Delivery at GCSE follows the reformed AQA English Language and English Literature GCSE courses.

English is taught in dedicated rooms, which are carpeted and equipped with movable tables and dedicated whiteboards. We have access to IT and library facilities which are used by students as planned parts of their English entitlement. We are also committed to the use of the Accelerated Reading scheme for every class in year 7 and as an adjunct to whole school literacy. There is also access to 30 iPads.

The English department contributes to extra-curricular activities and organises theatre trips, visiting speakers, theatrical workshops, Book Weeks and so on which include annual visits to The Globe Theatre and Poetry Live. We also offer a range of competitions, and take part annually in the nationally-held BBC School Report.

Gareth Wooster
Head of English