

## The English Department

“.....words strain,  
Crack and sometimes break, under the burden,  
Under the tension slip, slide, perish,  
Decay with imprecision and will not stay in place,  
Will not stay still.”

From *Burnt Norton*

T S Elliot

Our task as teachers of English is to help our pupils attain as precise a use of words as possible, to enable them to be fluent speakers, accurate listeners, proficient writers and committed readers.

The department philosophy is therefore to help our pupils use language for all its purposes; from the communication of the practicalities of life to a deep understanding of the role of language in recording, reflecting and commenting on the world and human nature; from the accurate use of language for transactional use from the humble shopping list to letters of application, to an appreciation of its affective role, from the creation of limericks to a knowledge and love of the art of our writers of plays, novels and verse.

As a department in a Catholic school we are committed to the school's mission statement enshrined in the school motto “Ministerium Tuum Imple” and will also seek ways of implementing the vision of St Paul's.

The department seeks to enable students to value not only their own opinions but those of others, and seeks to keep the mission statement. The notions of love and service, we feel, are very much enshrined in the teaching and working methods of the department. We believe that the nature of our work acts as a focal point for the notions of love and service. We aim, through our planning, marking, attitudes, relationships

and examples to scaffold the academic and spiritual learning of our students so that they can do the best they can. We hope to encourage them to strive for excellence in all that they do. We hope that our collective experience in class creates this atmosphere. In the midst of our daily work we hope that our service to one another will reflect and follow that of Christ's, who is the foundation of our school.

In the English Department we are committed to excellence. We share a love of language and literature and a desire to inspire pupils to share this. We are willing to update, evaluate and modify our practices and resources and have a willingness to learn from each other, academic research, examination reports, assessment and monitoring. We openly share our good practice, resources and success. We are committed to setting high standards and nurture positive attitudes in pupils to the subject and to themselves. We are committed to a variety of teaching and learning styles, strategies and activities as well as making pupils independent and committed thinkers and learners with access to skills to enable this.

At present the English Department consists of nineteen specialist teachers. Currently five members of staff hold responsibilities within the Department and many other colleagues hold other responsibilities within the school, including three English teachers who are on the school Leadership Team. We have eleven specialist English rooms housed in one building. We also have access to a very well-stocked library with networked computers and a resources base.

The Department's philosophy is to aim to ensure that every student is able and actively encouraged to fulfil his or her potential. At present we are facilitating this through a range of groupings to suit individual cohorts of students. At Key Stage 4 we believe in Literature for all and teach English and Literature courses following the AQA syllabus. At Post-16 we offer English Literature, English Language and Literature and Film Studies courses.

We have well-established schemes of work for KS3, KS4 and KS5 based upon what we believe is good practice. The schemes of work are very well resourced with an emphasis upon exciting and innovative teaching and learning experiences. We are engaged in a continual process of reviewing practice in order to refine our teaching and make it more stimulating and workable.

The person appointed will join a lively, friendly and highly committed team who works most effectively in a collaborative way. S/he would have a real opportunity to enhance the further development of this successful department.