

ENGLISH AT WADDSDON

Our English department consists of eight highly experienced members of staff who teach across the key stages. We are a successful, committed and supportive team. We are powerful advocates of the beauty and use of English Language and Literature and share an understanding and passion regarding how students learn. We also have an intrinsic desire to ensure that all students achieve highly in both disciplines.

The department works closely with an enthusiastic Learning Support Department to meet students' diverse learning needs. As well as in-class support, students benefit from intervention lessons delivered by a Higher Level Teaching Assistant who specialises in Literacy. Students are

taught in mixed ability groups in all key stages, and cover a range of classical and contemporary poetry, prose, drama and non-fiction throughout the year. Staff work flexibly and independently, but also collaboratively, since each key stage is focused around curriculum plans and shared resources. We have a wide range of novels, plays and poetry for teachers to choose from, along with supporting digital resources.

At Key Stage 3, there is a focus on encouraging an enjoyment of reading, writing and performing, as well as consolidating literacy skills, an area the department highly values. In Year 7, all students follow a personalised spelling scheme to ensure their progress, and teachers dedicate lessons to grammar

and writing skills. All students also visit the library once a fortnight during their English lessons as the enjoyment of reading is so crucial. Every year, all students take part in a speaking competition, culminating in a year group final,

to celebrate the importance of being able to speak confidently in front of others.

At Key Stage 4, students are strongly encouraged to achieve their potential across the ability range, achieving a Progress 8 score of 0.5 in 2019; 83% achieved 9-4 in English Language and 86% in English Literature (AQA syllabus). The department continues to strive for these high levels of progress and students are thriving on the new, more challenging GCSE syllabus.

At Key Stage 5, we offer English Literature (Edexcel syllabus) at A Level. A large number of students study a range of exciting and challenging drama, poetry and prose texts that range from 14th to 21st century. Both students and teachers are enthusiastic and passionate about the texts they cover, and seminar-style teaching allows lively debate and discussion. In 2019 70% of students achieved A*-C in English Literature.

Creative approaches to all areas of English teaching are welcomed and enrichment opportunities provide further extension of skills and the love of English. The dynamic library is used as an active hub within the school for a range of daily activities both in and out of lessons. The department also invites theatre companies to perform to students, as well as taking GCSE and A Level students on frequent theatre and



lecture trips to enrich their studies.

We are a happy, supportive team who care deeply about the students we teach and the staff we work with. Our aim is always to enable our students to build a love of English and to achieve highly.

January, 2020

