

BARTON MANOR SCHOOL – ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Facilities

The English department is comprised of six teaching rooms on the ground floor of our spacious new building each equipped with the latest Smartboard. In addition to these, there is the potential to make use of the school's ICT suites, including the Library and Sixth Form Learning Centre.

Key Stage 3

KS3 (Y7 - 9) English is delivered through eight lessons per fortnight, and homework is set in 4 of those lessons. In the first two years we prepare students for the close reading, creative writing and analytical tasks assessed on the new English specification. Learning is supported by a wide range of activities, ICT and printed resources, ensuring that a variety of activities is offered to suit every type of learner.

The focus is on the three key skill areas of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. Students will learn key skills of language analysis, including arguing and persuading, describing, and writing to entertain. All students will study poetry and a complete Shakespeare text during Key Stage 3. A range of literary genres will also be covered. Students will also participate in rigorous study of punctuation, spelling and grammar with key assessments on a regular basis.

There are assessments at the end of the six terms and key skills are assessed in areas such as Speaking and Listening, writing creative fiction, Non – fiction analysis, Media awareness, Reading and Comprehension skills and group work. By the end of KS3 we expect our students to express their ideas clearly, confidently and effectively with a sound understanding of the technical elements of English Language. We also encourage wider reading and involvement in extra-curricular activities such as creative writing, debate and public speaking.

Key Stage 4

The Department teaches English Language and English Literature at GCSE. We use Edexcel for both English Language and English Literature. Year 9 undertake a foundation year in which they focus on gothic fiction, a Shakespeare play, poetry and an introductory approach to the skills of the new English Language specification. The literature examinations are all closed book so students are expected to know the texts well and to demonstrate a thorough understanding of those texts with an emphasis on authorial methods. There is great emphasis in KS4 on teaching students how to create effective revision notes, how to study and revise for examinations and how to respond to examination prompts perceptively and using a range of judiciously chosen textual evidence.

There are four examinations at the end of KS4:

English Language Paper 1 – Fiction and Imaginative Writing

English Language Paper 2 – Reading and Transactional Writing

English Literature Paper 1 – Macbeth (William Shakespeare) and A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)

English Literature Paper 2 – An Inspector Calls (J.B. Priestley) and a selection of poetry

Key Stage 5

A joint Sixth Form with Barton Court Grammar School is planned and suitable courses post-16 will be discussed and agreed with the English Department nearer the time.

Staffing

The department will comprise of a small team as the school grows to its full capacity. Leadership roles will naturally develop as the school grows in size and opportunities for further promotion within the English Department and the wider school team will be readily available.