

OUR ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

In the English department, we aim to ensure that every student acquires the skills and opportunities to approach literature across a variety of genres in a confident, exploratory and perceptive way. Through a range of diverse texts and genres, our curriculum creates awareness of how English Literature and Language help to inform students' understanding of the world around them; allowing and encouraging moments to discover, understand and empathise with multiple perspectives and viewpoints. We seek to offer students a voice, an opinion, and an opportunity to be resilient, creative and independent learners.

The teaching of literature focuses on a rich and exciting range of literature texts chosen to encourage discussion and debate around central themes and ideas. Students study a Shakespeare play within a year, alongside a novel, short stories and poetry.

Within language study, students are taught how to write with a convincing viewpoint for a range of purposes and audiences. They read a wealth of fiction and non-fiction from year 7 to prepare them for GCSE study, focussing on AQA GCSE skills such as inference, comparison and analysis of language and structure.

Our English Curriculum is based around clear schemes of learning that are both creative and academically rigorous. It supports teachers with rich questioning, suggested pedagogical approaches, and resources which develop students' literacy thinking and analytical skills of enquiry. We strive to continually build and develop a rich and ever evolving curriculum for KS3 and KS4, building towards a point where each module contains a bespoke selection of very high quality resources which are academically challenging, pedagogically exciting, and support students to develop their knowledge and understanding.

Both academic progress and students' engagement within English can currently be identified as outstanding. At the heart of this are a team of excellent teachers who are passionate about their subject area and the belief of its importance for every student. English at the Archer is very much a living, breathing entity across the school; learning certainly doesn't stop in the classroom. Students' enjoyment of the subject is further encouraged through our creative timetable of events. For example, every year the department hold our very own 'LitFest' across the school; a week-long celebration of literature during which students take part in workshops, author talks, spoken word poet performances and competitions. Students also have the opportunity for regular theatre trips and author visits. Highlights have included author visits from Anne Fine, Michael Morpurgo, Sarah Crossan and an annual year 7 trip to the Globe.

The English team at the Archer Academy are motivated, enthusiastic, and absolutely committed to providing the very best English learning experience for our students. The team is a friendly, welcoming department, who embrace innovation and are keen to do whatever it takes to improve our students' English learning experience.