

English Statement of Intent

Key Stage Four

Our aim at KS4 is to encourage all learners to be enthusiastic and proactive in their studies as they prepare to undertake their GCSE examinations in English Language and Literature. We endeavour to support pupils to become independent, resilient, responsible, and successful citizens of the future, ready for the rigours of further academic study and the world of work. We hope to inspire and motivate our pupils to become lifelong learners who are successful not only academically but also in their positive contributions to wider society. We strive to ensure all pupils are equipped with the broad range of skills needed to be successful in an ever changing, competitive and challenging world.

To achieve our vision, we have created a KS4 curriculum which builds on the skills delivered at KS3 and follows the AQA GCSE specification for language and literature. We continue to immerse our learners in a vast range of reading stimulus, both fiction and non-fiction and aim to further develop their Cultural Capital. Pupils study texts from a range of highly respected authors such as Shakespeare, Shelley and Dickens, Duffy and Armitage and playwrights such as Priestley and Russell. We encourage pupils to read these texts critically, with imagination, and to make connections to the world around them. The texts studied at KS4 frequently address important social and historical issues that are still very much relevant and prevalent today. We strive to tackle these issues in an open and inclusive way, where students feel safe and secure in developing and expressing their beliefs.

In writing, we strive to build on the skills implemented at KS3 to generate effective and confident writers who can express themselves accurately, in detail and with precision. We aim to foster imaginative and analytical writers who utilise sophisticated vocabulary, form grammatically correct and compelling sentences and employ structural devices creatively to express ideas in a convincing manner for a variety of forms and purposes.

Students have opportunity to participate in discussions, debates, and formal presentations as they journey towards the completion of their spoken language endorsement. This affords students the chance to embed and refine their oral communication skills and to develop their ability to articulate views and ideas confidently, coherently and in an organised manner. These skills will prove vital as pupils progress to further academic study or their chosen careers.

English is undoubtedly one of the most important subjects pupils will undertake at GCSE and while examination success is paramount to our vision, we equally aim to foster well-rounded citizens. Through delivering innovative and engaging lessons and through our extra-curricular provision, the English curriculum at KS4 ensures that vital knowledge and skills are implemented, developed, and practised to make success tangible for all.