



# DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | HONESTY

The English Department comprises eight full-time teachers and two part-time colleagues. The English Department is within the Communications Faculty along with colleagues in Media and Film Studies. Members of the Department share a common philosophy of education and this has ensured co-operative planning of policies, teaching materials and assessment methods. Teamwork is an important feature of the Department and has contributed significantly to the high level of success in academic achievement. Staff are given opportunities to extend their expertise by accepting responsibility for aspects of the English curriculum. Each member of staff can access key ideas and plans for KS3 and KS4.

The most recent OFSTED report drew attention to the fine work being carried out in English, commenting that 'The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is strong in a range of subjects, including English'. The Department is housed in a suite of ten well-equipped rooms; we have our own staff area, and all colleagues have ready access to ICT to inform their everyday teaching.

The English Department's sustained record of academic success over the past decade has secured the Department's place as a consistently successful core subject in the School and one of the most successful departments in the Borough. We have a high profile in the local area and have hosted INSET sessions for other departments within the local collegiate. Our examination results demonstrate that we have a collective commitment to students of all abilities, and to the Comprehensive ethos. Within this, we are also wedded to setting by ability and accurate differentiation. All new colleagues joining our team are expected to share these commitments and principles. Our greatest commitment of all is to the liberating power of English and the joy of English Literature.

Year 7 pupils are currently taught in mixed ability groups; rigorous internal assessment takes place at the end of the year, and in Years 8 and 9 pupils are taught in three broad bands, with the added refinement of two accelerated sets in Year 9.

Years 10 and 11 are broadly banded for their GCSEs, following the Edexcel syllabus. All students take GCSEs in both English and English Literature. There are also Media Studies GCSE Option groups in Years 10 and 11. The excellent results achieved ensure that A level English Literature, A level Media Studies, and A level Film Studies are popular Sixth Form choices.

Research facilities are excellent, particularly for the Sixth Form (who have unique access to our new, state of the art Resources Centre), who can access texts, CDs, DVDs and computer programs on disk for private study.

Visiting theatre groups are invited into school for Years 7-13 and theatre trips and outings to Sixth Form Conferences are arranged frequently for the Upper School; hopefully, in 2021-2, these activities can recommence.

## **The Post**

A full time temporary (maternity cover) English post has become available from November 2021.