

## Welcome to the English Department

### The Curriculum at Key Stage Three

The Key Stage Three Curriculum is designed to be interesting, challenging and inspiring for our students. The students will enjoy studying a wide range of novels, poetry, plays (both modern and pre 20<sup>th</sup> century) and non - fiction. Throughout the three years students will develop skills that will prepare them fully for the demands of GCSE.

### Overview of the Year 7 English Curriculum

#### Autumn Term

- *“Poetry of Place”*. Students will develop their understanding of poetic form and technique, through studying a wide variety of poets including:

Dharker, Blake, Heaney, Clarke, Clare and Wordsworth. They will also have the opportunity to create their own “Poetry of Place.”

- *Pre - 20 Century fictional extracts* and poetry unit *“Finding a Voice”*. This unit enables our Year 7s to explore a variety of literary extracts and poetry by a variety of authors including: Dickens, Austen, Shelley, Alcott, Bronte, Tagore. Year 7 will also have the opportunity to undertake contextual study to develop their understanding of the authors’ work and also develop their creative and persuasive writing skills.



#### Spring Term

- *Shakespeare*. Students will be introduced to scenes from different Shakespearean plays (teacher’s choice). Through both practical and written exploration, students will gain confidence in exploring a Shakespeare play, developing an understanding of language, plot, character and stagecraft. They will also have the opportunity to write dramatic monologues and other creative text types
- *The Modern Novel*. Students study a modern or contemporary novel, examining writers’ craft. They study the novel through both analytical and creative responses.

#### Summer Term

- Completion of study of the novel.
- Exam preparation and end of Year examination
- *Exploration of a Modern play*. (Teacher’s choice) Students will develop skills in how to read a play script, realising its potential as a performance text.



## Overview of the Year 8 Curriculum

### Year 8:

#### Autumn Term

- Students are introduced to the study of media and non – fiction texts. They will analyse and emulate the techniques used of different text types and have the opportunity to write speeches, reviews, opinion articles and leaflets to prepare them for KS4
- In the second part of the term, they study a full Shakespeare play, and consider its literary and historical context

#### Spring Term

- Here, there is the opportunity to read and analyse a range of Pre- 1914 short stories, and write their own work in the same genre.
- In the second part of the term, students study a modern or contemporary novel, undertaking a range of creative and analytical tasks inspired by the novel studied.

#### Summer Term

- Students prepare for their internal examinations, and complete the study of the modern novel

- The students complete the year with a unit of work focussed on Poetry from different cultures



## Overview of the Year 9 Curriculum

### Autumn Term

- The students begin with a unit on Detective Fiction. This unit enables students to read a wide range of Classic detective fiction, considering the conventions of the genre. As well as writing analytical essays, they are also given the opportunity to create a portfolio of work, including poetry, a novel opening and flash fiction.
- In the second part of the term, students develop their knowledge and understanding of how media and non – fiction texts are structured. This leads into GCSE skills of deconstructing articles and travel writing, focussing on audience, purpose and writers' craft.



### Spring Term

- Students study a Shakespearean Tragedy, and study this as a literary and dramatic text. They are enabled to look at different interpretations and productions, and develop their understanding of stagecraft and Shakespearean language and develop skills of analysis and synthesis: all key skills for English Literature GCSE

## Summer Term

- The year is completed with the study of a novel and four poems from the GCSE poetry anthology. Students also sit a literature and language exam, in the style of GCSE papers.
- Students study a modern or contemporary novel, and undertake a range of tasks and wider reading, to develop their skills of analysis and appreciation of Literature.

## Assessment at Key Stage Three

### What is the purpose of assessment?

- to help students develop all aspects of their English skills
- to develop their own critical approach to work
- to enable them to reflect on the learning process
- it is one of the forms of “conversation” between student and teacher.

### How are students assessed?

- Students’ progress will be **continually assessed** throughout Key Stage Three. Students will undertake a range of **teacher assessments** throughout a scheme of work, including two “Key Assessments”. These assessments are common across the department and are internally moderated. Students will complete a baseline and final key assessment focus on the particular reading or writing skill nominated for that scheme of work. Students will also be encouraged and taught to develop critical skills through **assessment of their own work and that of their peers through “green pen” work**. Students will be given the opportunity to also complete and be assessed on **speaking and listening** activities. Certain pieces will be given a level, which is awarded by the teachers and moderated within department. Marking criteria is shared with students so they are pro- active in the assessment for learning process. Good work is celebrated by display work, teacher comment, merits and departmental postcards!



## Parental support

### *Ten ways to support your daughter's learning at Key Stage Three*

1. Encourage them to **read, read, read!** Use the booklist issued on induction day for ideas and inspiration. Encourage your students to try “something different” from their favourite.
2. Encourage your daughter to join the **creative writing group** and reading group, and enter competitions!
3. To develop vocabulary, look up new or unknown words in a **dictionary**, and practise using them with your daughter.
4. Online resources can be useful and fun. The **poetry foundation** provides a poem a day: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org>
5. **dictionary.com** can email you a new word every day, which is also a quick way to increase vocabulary. All sign up and see what each day brings!  
<http://dictionary.reference.com>
6. The BBC website is useful for some quick tips and hints. It provides a friendly and useful introduction to **proof reading and editing**: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise>
7. Encourage your daughter to become a **critic of her own work**: reading a piece of work **out loud** can quickly identify areas that lack clarity or punctuation. Be the audience or reader...
8. Take your daughter to see **live theatre** for inspiration and enjoyment:  
<http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk>
9. When **studying Shakespeare**, encourage your daughter to visit the **RSC website**, as it has a wonderful archive of interesting material: <http://www.rsc.org.uk/explore/>
10. Share **news and magazine articles** that interest you: discuss how journalists convey their opinions: talk about headlines and use of visual images.

*“The most important thing is to read as much as you can, like I did. It will give you an understanding of what makes good writing and it will enlarge your vocabulary.”*

*J. K. Rowling*

## Key Stage Four GCSE English and English Literature

At Rugby High School, all students study for two GCSE subjects:  
English Language and English Literature



### English Language:

English Language is an exciting, challenging and creative subject.

The department follows the AQA specification. The course is linear and exam - based.

The examination is content- free and totally skills based. In order to prepare for this qualification, students read and analyse a wide range of media, non – fiction and pre and post 20<sup>th</sup> century literary extracts and texts.

Students also gain a separate grade for Speaking and Listening, gaining a distinction, merit or pass in this element.

### English Literature:

English Literature is a fascinating subject that requires students to develop in - depth knowledge and understanding of a series of prose, poetry and drama. Students develop a range of invaluable skills throughout the course.

Students will ultimately sit two papers for this qualification:

**Paper One: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel**

**Paper Two: Modern prose or drama, a collection of poetry and unseen poetry**

## How can you support your daughter in GCSE English and English Literature?

- Encourage your daughter to read, read, read! Novels, newspapers and online articles – discuss how writers present their ideas
- Listen to radio four together: there are literary programmes and book at bedtime!
- Encourage your daughter to use reading lists to read a wide variety of Literature, including some 19<sup>th</sup> century fiction
- Discuss language in the news and find out the meanings of words you don't know together
- Encourage your daughter to join the creative writing or reading group in school
- Go and see live theatre: visit the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Warwick Arts Centre, Curve Theatre, The Royal and Derngate. (Many local theatre companies offer vastly reduced tickets for under 18s. )
- Help your daughter organise her time so she can meet all homework deadlines

## **Key Stage Five:**

### **English Literature A Level**

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.”

The English Department follow WJEC specification for English Literature A Level.

This specification encourages learners to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies, and it enables students read widely and engage critically.

Students have the opportunity to study challenging and fascinating writers such as Charlotte Bronte, E.M. Forster, Carol Ann Duffy, Tennessee Williams and John Webster. Students in their second year of study also undertake wider reading, and write a 3000 word comparative essay, that includes a post - 2000 novel of their choice.

At A Level students of Literature will be expected to:

1. Read widely and independently
2. Engage critically and creatively
3. Develop and apply knowledge in formal essays
4. Undertake independent studies to deepen their appreciation of Literature.
5. Take part in seminars, class discussion, individual and group presentation

Students will develop higher order thinking skills such as:

- Application of knowledge and understanding
- Analysis
- Critical thinking
- Synthesis
- Empathy
- All forms of communication!



English Literature is a highly regarded and well - respected A level subject that is valued by all the top universities. Studying this subject at Rugby High School will take students anywhere they want to go.

## **English Language A Level**

Why Study English Language A Level?

*“Language has no independent existence apart from the people who use it. It is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end of understanding who you are and what society is like.”*

*David Crystal*

At Rugby High School, the Department follow the EDUQAS specification for this subject.

Students will study:

- Language and the individual
- Language variations
- Language and Power
- Language and Gender
- Language acquisition
- Language and the media
- Language change

Students will be expected to undertake a wide range of learning tasks, including data analysis, discursive essays, original writing, for a variety of purposes and audiences. Students in the second year of their course will also undertake a piece of original and independent research, investigating a contemporary language issue. Students will be expected to read widely and lead seminars and presentations.

**What skills will students develop?**

Students will develop a range of invaluable higher order thinking skills such as: analysis, evaluation, synthesis, independent thinking and knowledge of meta- language. Students are expected to become experts in all aspects of communication skills

**Where will studying English Language take you?**

English Language A level enables students to study English Language and linguistics at university level. It complements other degree courses, for example, Sociology or Law. It also lends itself to vocational courses such as speech therapy. It is a highly regarded subject that will take students anywhere they want to go.