

ENGLISH

The English department's aim is to offer enjoyment which promotes achievement for all students.

English is taught in a suite of seven well-equipped specialist classrooms, each with its own interactive white-board. Students also have access to newly refurbished computer suites, laptops, video cameras and the Learning Resources Centre, which regularly updates its stock of contemporary texts. The English Department teach six lessons per fortnight to Years 7-11. Students are set in ability groupings.

Key Stage 3

The Key Stage 3 English course aims to develop students' abilities in the areas of speaking and listening, reading and writing.

At Key Stage 3, students in each year group study: a novel, drama, poetry, non-fiction texts, media, pre-20th literature and Shakespeare. The course has been devised by the Tanbridge House English Department, which has been purposely designed to meet the needs of all students. The course has been tailored to include a variety of learning styles and interactive teaching approaches so as to inspire and stimulate interest in the subject.

Students are continually assessed via on-going work in Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing as well as baseline assessments in Reading and Writing via APP tasks (Assessing Pupil Progress) and Speaking and Listening, once every term.

Key Stage 3 Extra-Curricular Activities

In addition to the sponsored read, book fairs, reading groups and novelist visits, there are also poetry competitions, opportunities for theatre trips and workshops throughout the year. Extra study sessions for targeted students are also provided in all year groups.

Parental Support at Key Stage 3

You can support your children in English by ensuring that they complete homework that is set and encourage them to read a variety of new and progressively challenging books.

Key Stage 4

At Tanbridge House the Key Stage 4 course encompasses GCSE English and English Literature so that at the end of Year 11 students are awarded with two GCSEs.

GCSE English Current Year 11 (AQA 'A' syllabus)

Coursework (40%); Examination (60%)

GCSE English Literature

Coursework (30%); Examination (70%)

iGCSE English (Year 10 onwards)

Students in Key Stage Four, from 2010, follow the Cambridge iGCSE Syllabus, with assessments in coursework and terminal examination.

iGCSE English (Syllabus 0500)

Coursework (50%) Creative writing responses; Speaking and Listening Coursework (separately certificated: Grades 1 down to 5); Examination (50%) Reading and Writing responses to texts

iGCSE English Literature (Syllabus 0486)

Coursework (25%) Text responses; Examination (75%) - Open Book

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Key Stage 4 Extra-Curricular Activities

The English department organise a variety of trips outside school including theatre visits for students to consolidate their understanding of drama texts studied and conferences to aid examination study such as the nationally popular 'Poetry Live' involving poets studied for the Anthology, discussing their work. As well as this, weekly coursework sessions are provided, and revision sessions for each examination targeted at specific grade boundaries. The department provide advice and help during the yearly Year 11 Study Support Evening.

Parental Support at Key Stage 4

Parental support is vital at Key Stage Four in English as there are incredible pressures on students to achieve for their future. You can help by ensuring that they meet coursework deadlines, which are posted in the English section of the VLE, as well as homework deadlines and supporting their revision. We recommend a variety of revision guides, a list of which are posted on the VLE, which can be purchased via the web, local bookshops or through the department.