



The English Department at Birkdale High School are a dedicated and passionate team who embrace innovative and research-driven practices that ensure our boys buck the National Trend for underperformance in English.

We have achieved consistently impressive results over the last few years with a focus on developing vocabulary, strengthening long term memory, targeted intervention and modelling our high expectations. In 2018 77.5% of our boys achieved a grade 4+, 58.6% a grade 5+ and 22.5% a 7+ for English Language. We were particularly delighted to see 9 of our boys achieve the top grade 9 in English Language. In English Literature, 77.5% achieved a grade 4+, 58.6% achieved a 5+ and 19.5% a grade 7+.

We firmly believe that a knowledge driven and challenging Key Stage Three curriculum is essential in not only achieving impressive outcomes but for developing a love of the subject. As such, students study a range of units including Oliver Twist, the Art of Rhetoric and the gothic genre. They also receive weekly explicit vocabulary instruction, a weekly Accelerated Reader library lesson and fortnightly writing challenges to craft their writing style and build stamina.

At KS4 we deliver the AQA specifications for both English Language and English Literature. We have trialled separate teachers for the two subjects this year and after positive feedback from both staff and students, will be adopting this approach with year ten from 2019-2020. We choose texts which appeal to our students for English Literature and link Language topics to engaging and current topics that interest our students as well as expanding their knowledge and understanding of the world. Our Gender Divide topic in year ten always generates lots of debate and interesting viewpoint writing!

We are a collaborative team who are passionate about adopting practices to ensure that workload is manageable. We have been pioneers of using comparative judgement (through nomoremarking.com) software and have 'marked' students writing using this system for a number of years now: this enables us to track progress of writing much more accurately and for more manageable exam marking. We also share our planning and have a wealth of high quality resources which are shared amongst all the Department. Every member of the Department also has a high quality visualiser in their classroom which has resulted in less emphasis on superfluous information on PowerPoints and more modelling and joint crafting of high quality responses.

The English Department currently consists of five full time English Teachers plus the SENCO who also teaches English. All teachers have their own classroom and access to a recently refurbished library suite with adjoining computer room.

As a forward thinking, ambitious Department, the successful candidate needs to be a reflective practitioner who is willing to adopt and trial new pedagogies. This needs to be underpinned by a solid subject knowledge and passion for developing a love of what is such a fundamental and inspiring subject for our students.

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