

# English

English is important for communicating with others in school and in the wider world, and is fundamental to learning in all curriculum subjects. Studying English enables students to develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. These are the essential skills that they will need to participate in society and employment.

The English Department's main aim is to achieve the highest possible standards for all students, regardless of ability. We want all students to enjoy their learning in English and we strive to offer a wide and varied range of curriculum opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom. Our GCSE results are improving. In 2015, 87% of our students gained A\* to C in GCSE English Literature. An increasing number of our students go on to study English at A level. All the English teachers at Pittville are avid readers and we endeavour to pass on our passion for literature and language to each new generation. Together we lead and support the whole school literacy targets. We are fortunate to have a well-resourced department library of both fiction and non-fiction, covering all ages, abilities and interests. This all contributes to pupils having a greater understanding of the world in which we live.

## Key Stage 3

The Key Stage 3 curriculum in English is fun! The programs have been crafted to increase pupils' progress and give them the essential skills they need for GCSE English Language and English Literature. At the heart of this is developing a pupil's love of reading through reading at home and at school through the Accelerated Reading Scheme. Reading homework is set regularly alongside an Extended Learning Project that runs each half term.

In year 7, pupils study play-scripts, modern novels based on the theme of war, a variety of non-fiction and a variety of poetry old and new based around key themes. Pupils also have an introduction to some of the classics in Literature including Shakespeare.

In year 8 pupils study a modern novel as well as non-fiction texts and literary fiction. Through key themes, such as 'Survival' and 'Journey to Foreign Lands', they study a range of texts. They also read and dramatise play-scripts as well as studying a Shakespeare play.

In year 9, pupils study a range of contemporary novels and plays as well as well-known literary classics. Pupils study texts related to particular themes such as the Gothic genre and are introduced to key aspects of context that will prepare them well for the next two years. This year is essentially the foundation year before GCSE so key assessments are linked to preparing pupils for the GCSE examinations.

# Key Stage 4

From September 2015 Students will be prepared for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature (EDEXCEL) Due to Government changes to English GCSE, all assessment from 2015 will be examined at the end of year 11 with two exams for GCSE Language and two exams for GCSE Literature. *There will be no coursework or controlled assessment component.*

## **GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Students will study and learn how to analyse and make sense of a selection of unseen extracts from classic novels from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as well as a range of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century non-fiction texts (e.g. extracts from magazines and newspapers) including literary non-fiction (e.g. extracts from biographies and autobiographies). Students will also develop their skills to analyse and compare. Students will also learn how to develop their imaginative writing skills for a variety of purposes and audiences. Students will build on their spelling and punctuation skills and learn how to use grammar accurately.

## **GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Students will study a Shakespeare play and a post 1914 British play or novel. They will learn how to develop their analysis skills in order to comment on the language, form and background of the texts they study. They will also study a range of poetry as well as learning the skills to compare two different poems.

# Extra Curricular

We offer students a variety of ways they can get involved and appreciate the wonderful power of our language and the written word:

- Roald Dahl 'Dress Up' Day
- Literacy Leaders Club
- SPOZ – Poetry Slam Day
- BBC School Report
- Reading Club
- Pittville Press
- Shakespeare Day
- 'Readathon' - Sponsored Reading Event
- Harry Potter Studio Trip
- GCSE Poetry Live
- Local and national theatre trips
- Literacy Links with Primary Feeder Schools
- 'A Play in a Day and Performance' – Gifted and Talented Year 7 (2015 'A Midsummer Night's Dream')
- GCSE Booster Revision After School Sessions
- 'Stepping up' – GCSE 'Step up a Grade' Lunchtime Bitesize Sessions
- Whole School Termly Literacy Focus

