

## **English Curriculum Area**

English is a highly successful subject area at Bennett and our outstanding results are a testimony to the enthusiasm students bring to lessons and the close collaboration we have within the team to encourage everyone to do their very best. Fostering a delight in literature and empowering young people with a mastery of English language, we strive as a department to enrich students' experience of reading, writing and speaking and listening. As a curriculum team which includes drama and media studies, we are well placed to use our range of subject knowledge and experience to provide a creative and challenging curriculum where we believe there is no limit to the progress students can make.

The curriculum team, led by Mr Keith Knights, comprises of sixteen teachers offering English, drama and media studies. The department team is sited in a brand new state of the art building which means that all of the team teach in the same building. Media studies has a dedicated computer room. Every classroom has an IWB. Colleagues make full use of the Learning Resources Centre where KS3 classes have a library lesson once a fortnight. Students taking drama also have access to both a drama studio and a larger hall space is regularly available for rehearsal and lessons. The new building provides a large workspace and a photocopier for colleagues.

We have a fantastic range of teaching resources which we share regularly. There are detailed schemes of work for each year group with a variety of linked resources, engaging texts and lesson suggestions. Assessment is carefully embedded into all our units.

There is a strong focus on developing further students' knowledge of the English language and their capacity to use it both expressively and analytically, building upon the foundations laid in KS2. GCSE classes follow the AQA GCSE English language and English literature specification. Significant numbers of students opt to take GCSE drama and media studies. In the 6<sup>th</sup> form we offer English literature, English language, theatre studies and media studies; uptake is high and we are relentless in promoting the intrinsic value of the study of English and related subjects beyond A level; many students pursue their studies in these fields at university.

Beyond the classroom the English department has started to establish links with primary schools. We have a thriving performing arts club and a very successful senior debating society which is led by an English team colleague. There are opportunities to be involved with school productions, with previous productions including *Antigone*, *The Seagull*, *The Crucible*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, and *Julius Caesar* as well as collaborative efforts with the music department such as last year's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Bennett is strongly committed to developing teachers professionally, and believes that all staff should have an active and positive role to play in the development of policy and practice. As a designated Teaching School we can offer a wide range of professional development opportunities both within Bennett and our network of secondary schools. These include courses such as the outstanding teacher programme, leadership development programmes.

Bennett is a Church of England school, and it is expected that all staff support the school's distinctive ethos in their professional role.