

# BARTON COURT GRAMMAR SCHOOL – ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

## Department

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The English and Film Studies Department is comprised of seven teaching rooms. In addition to these, there is the potential to make use of the school's four ICT suites. The department is staffed by eight teachers, including the Curriculum Leader of English & Whole School Literacy Lead, the Curriculum Leader of Film Studies and two Seconds, who have responsibility for English Key Stages 3 and 5. Film Studies is taught at Key Stage 5.

## Key Stage 3

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Key Stage 3 English (years 7 and 8) is delivered through seven lessons per fortnight. In these first two years we focus on giving our students a strong grounding in the principles of literature and language study: genre conventions; character archetypes; narrative structure and form; creative and non-fiction writing and reading for meaning. Learning is supported by a wide range of classroom activities, ensuring that learning offers time for structured talk as well as written activities.

The focus is on the three key skill areas of reading, writing and oracy. All students will study poetry, a complete Shakespeare text, novels, drama and short stories during Key Stage 3. Students explore literature in Year 7 through the study of archetypes and genre. In Year 8, students explore how language is a powerful mechanism for change and political protest through their study of literature and non-fiction texts.

There are regular formative and summative assessments in key skills, including: oracy; creative writing; non – fiction writing; reading comprehension; reading analysis and knowledge quizzes. By the end of KS3 we expect our students to express their ideas clearly, confidently and effectively with a sound understanding of the technical elements of English Language.

## Key Stage 4

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The Department teaches AQA English Language and English Literature at GCSE. Key Stage 4 comprises years 9, 10 and 11. Year 9 undertake a foundation year in which they focus on gothic fiction, a Shakespeare play, poetry and regular creative writing workshop lessons. As students progress into year 10, the writing workshop lessons progress to non-fiction writing and the four key literature texts are studied: *An Inspector Calls*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Macbeth* and the AQA *Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology*. The focus of year 11 is on the reading sections of both English Language papers, the study of unseen poetry, revision of the course content and examination skills.

All students sit four examinations at the end of KS4:

English Language Paper 1 – Explorations in creative reading and writing.

English Language Paper 2 – Writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel.

English Literature Paper 2 – Modern texts and poetry.

## Key Stage 5

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English is a popular A-Level at Barton Court Grammar School. The A-Level English Literature course is a two-year linear course culminating in three examination papers at the end of Year 13 and a single, comparative coursework essay. Students follow the Edexcel A-Level English Literature specification, which is divided into four areas of study:

1. Drama – *Othello*, (William Shakespeare) and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, (Tennessee Williams)
2. Prose – *Beloved*, (Toni Morrison) and *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, (Oscar Wilde)
3. Poetry – Romantic poets (collection) and Modern poets (collection)
4. Coursework

Film Studies is taught at A Level and follows the Eduqas Specification. It is a popular choice within our sixth form community, and students enjoy having the option to create their own short films as part of the NEA element. Film is one of the highest performing departments within the sixth form and many of our students opt to study Film at university. The Film Studies department consists of two English Teachers, with relevant subject experience in Film. They share the teaching of A Level classes and manage this alongside their KS3 and KS4 English teaching allocation. Students study a diverse range of film texts from different historical, national and global contexts. The course provides students with the opportunity to explore how film works both as both a medium of representation and aesthetic.

### General Notes:

The department runs separate writing clubs for older and younger students, together with regular booster sessions to support key skills at various times during the year. We bring in visiting writers and lecturers to work with our students and we arrange theatre visits and trips where possible. The department supports various competitions and initiatives during the year such as creative writing and poetry competitions, both local and national.

The Department is always looking to enhance the extra-curricular activities that it offers and would expect that a new member of staff would share this ethos and be similarly willing to take charge of an activity.