

ENGLISH

We use language to make sense of our experience, to share it with other people and to extend it. We want our children to be confident in their language, reasonable and sensitive in their attitude and behaviour towards others, and eager to extend the horizons of their world.

Pupils in Years 8 to 11 are grouped according to their potential as readers. Pupils work together as a class, in small groups and individually. In this way they gain experience of working in formal situations, of co-operating with one another, and of concentrating on a specific task on their own. Texts and materials are selected to cater for the spread of ability within each group. The tasks and expectations of performance are tailored to challenge each child. Homework will not take more than 60 minutes per week, some of which will usually be reading time. In addition to English and English Literature, the department offers Media Studies as a GCSE option. About 40% of pupils have extra literacy lessons in Years 8 and 9, and there is an English component in the Study Plus option at KS4.

Our immediate objective is to make the English lesson an enjoyable activity, since it is through the interest and enthusiasm here that the basic skills of reading, writing, talking and listening can best be developed. We pay particular attention to monitoring each pupil's progress in these basic skills and liaise when necessary with the Special Needs Co-ordinator in diagnosing difficulties and devising individual programmes. In order to ensure that there will be progress in each of the skills, pupils are given individualised targets in each area. Progress in these is carefully monitored.

Our main aim is to produce avid and sensitive readers who have an awareness of the pleasure, joy and knowledge available in books and other texts including media texts, and an ability to examine how these texts work. If this aim is addressed, success in other areas usually follows. Pupils are expected to develop a range of writing skills: selecting appropriate vocabulary, structuring and organising different kinds of text and using punctuation and other grammatical conventions with confidence and accuracy. We hope that pupils will also develop an awareness of style. In speech, as well as in writing, pupils are encouraged to be clear and expressive and to take an intelligent part in discussion. Conversely, there will be an emphasis on producing informed and patient listeners.

We aim to produce pupils who are literate and articulate; confident of their readiness to face the complicated demands of their community and the wider society, and appreciative of its literature.

Robert Johnson
Head of English

http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://www.abm-enterprises.net/william-shakespeare-portrait.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.abm-enterprises.net/shakespeare.htm&h=802&w=800&sz=351&tbnid=O07EapXyylejUM:&tbnh=225&tbnw=224&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dshakespeare%2Bpictures&zoom=1&q=shakespeare+pictures&hl=en&usq=__NLek6w9Jb30JNt_ndEgGxDyk32c=&sa=X&ei=SEF_TbibD86KhQfL-fGrBw&ved=0CCQQ9QEwAA