ENGLISH

Head of English: Mrs Rebecca Dyke
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WHY KING'S?

Facilities
- Bright, attractive rooms facing College Green
- Interactive whiteboards throughout the department

Highlights
- Theatre visits, literary festival visits, lectures and competitions

The department has two distinct but complementary aims:

- To teach, practise and develop in all pupils the skills required to read a wide range of non-literary texts with understanding and to communicate effectively in spoken and written English;
- To inspire in all pupils a love of English literature and to provide the means by which they might understand and respond to that literature more deeply.

The English Department is based in a very attractive former boarding house in the Cathedral Close. Its eight classrooms, all of which are equipped with interactive whiteboards, provide for the department's teaching. There is also extensive book storage, a sixth form library, a departmental office and an ICT classroom which is used for English teaching along with other subjects. We also work closely with the excellent school library, delivering library lessons to Lower Years students. There are currently eight members of the English Department, four of whom are part-time.

Academic Performance

96% A*-C English Lit A-level

66% 7-9 English Lang GCSE

72% 7-9 English Lit GCSE

2026 Results

English is taught to mixed ability form groups in Year 7 ("Lower Fourth") and upper, middle and lower streamed groups in Year 8 ("Upper Fourth"), with a mix of Language and literature in each year's programme of study. We also work closely with the Drama department to deliver lessons that incorporate the skills of Drama and English, developing confidence in performance and script writing.

English classes are banded by ability in Years 9, 10 and 11 ("Lower Remove", "Upper Remove" and "Fifth Form"). We currently follow the Edexcel IGCSE course in both English language and English literature with Years 9, 10 and 11, with the course for Year 9 providing the foundation for success for IGCSE performance.

In 2026, at A-level, 76% of students achieved A*-B grades. At IGCSE in English Language 66% of all students achieved grades between 7 and 9 (A*/A grades) and in IGCSE English Literature 72% of pupils achieved grades between 7 and 9 (A*/A grades).



"The department is friendly and the staff enthusiastic, experienced and passionate about both literature and language.

English is a popular subject in the Sixth Form, where the Edexcel English literature and language (new for September 2027) courses are offered. Students are taught in mixed-ability sets. Course content includes:

A level English Literature:

Breadth across drama, prose and poetry. Students study Othello and A Streetcar Named Desire. They also study The Handmaid's Tale and Frankenstein as linked prose texts, plus contemporary poetry (Poems of the Decade) and the Romantic poets.

Assessment is via Three exams. Drama (30%), Prose (20%) and Poetry (30%). A 2,500–3,000 word comparative essay (20%) starts with The Great Gatsby, and students choose a second text from The Bell Jar or Death of a Salesman.

A level English Language:

How language works. Students explore how mode, field, function and audience shape language and identity. They look at English from c1550 to today, and at how children aged 0–8 acquire spoken language and learn to write.

Assessment is via independent and creative work. Students pursue their own specialism in Investigating Language, choosing from Global English, Language and Gender Identity, Language and Journalism, Language and Power, or Regional Language Variation. They also write original texts with a reflective commentary for the NEA. The exams are Language Variation (35%), Child Language (20%) and Investigating Language (25%), and the NEA is 20%.

Our objectives in all our teaching are to equip our pupils to:

- Communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in speech and writing, including the use of appropriate information and communication technology, in a variety of situations and for a variety of purposes;
- Comprehend what they hear and read and to convey that understanding to others;
- Think logically and express their ideas on an extensive range of issues;
- Appreciate literature in a wide variety of forms, including prose, poetry, drama and literary non-fiction;
- Extend their imagination through an acquaintance with others' experience, culture, emotions and their awareness of the world in which they live;
- Understand something of their own language: its history, variations, registers and styles appropriate for different purposes;
- Meet the language demands made of them in later life.



All members of the department are very much involved with the extensive programme of co-curricular including activities such as extension classes, creative writing clubs, competitions and much more.

Each year there is a busy programme of theatre visits, visiting speakers, educational workshops and other trips for all year groups.

In previous years, for example, we have organised a residential weekend in Haworth to prepare students for their examination in A level English Literature and attended prestigious literary festivals like Hay-on-Wye Festival.



For further information please visit the English pages on our website