



The Thomas Aveling School

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The Thomas Aveling School English Department

We currently operate within the faculty system so the Head of the Communications Faculty is responsible for English, Modern Foreign Languages, Media Studies and Psychology. Within English we have three Assistant Subject Leaders- one each responsible for KS3, KS4 and KS5.

Our department is staffed by lively, enthusiastic and talented professionals who demonstrate a passion for their subject. Lessons are taught in a cluster of well-appointed classrooms with access to a wealth of resources including mobile banks of laptops and interactive whiteboards in each classroom.

KS3 English is taught in mixed-ability classes with an express group in Year 9 who sit their GCSEs early. Programmes of study in Years 7 & 8 are based around the following topics: Class Novel, Poetry, Independent Reading Project, Autobiography, World of Media, Drama, Shakespeare, Heroes and Villains, Short Stories and Dialect Poetry. Each of these programmes of study has a medium term plan and there are workbooks available for students. Although we provide teachers with a wealth of resources we also work in a creative environment where teachers are encouraged to create and collaborate on new resources and ideas.

In Year 9 we study the Gothic Tradition and then a unit based around speeches, up until January when we begin our GCSE course by completing pieces of Original Writing and Media coursework. Speaking and Listening is taught throughout KS3 and in the spring of Year 9 we begin preparing students for coursework in this area. Last year our express Year 9 groups sat their GCSE English Literature exams with 51 out of 52 students attaining a C grade or above.

In Year 10 we begin GCSE preparation in earnest, this year entering all students for their Language exams at the end of Year 10, leaving Year 11 for a renewed focus on GCSE English Literature.

We teach AQA specification A at GCSE and are currently reviewing options for the introduction of the new syllabuses in 2010.

Our results have increased year on year, with last year seeing our highest results for some time- 51% in Language and 61% in Literature. The department worked hard to achieve these results, employing a variety of strategies to ensure our students reached their potential. We have a C/D borderline class in each half of Year 11 where students on the borderline are withdrawn from their original classes to target their C grade in English. From this September students who are placed in this class will sit only Language.

At AS and A Level, English Literature (WJEC), Media Studies (WJEC) and Psychology (AQA-spec A) are very popular and over-subscribed subjects which are all taught by specialists from within the faculty. MFL teachers have this year launched AS level Italian and will launch AS level French in September 2010.

It has been noted that the department has reached the levels of results it has because the staff are willing to go the 'extra mile' for our students. Whether it is coursework clinics being run, trips to provide context and understanding to the students or a commitment to projects (including drama, public speaking or running the media club) student progress and support is our central concern.