



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Teaching

The successful candidate will join a department of five other teachers. We are a close-knit team who believe in supporting each other closely and working collaboratively wherever possible, but this is also a department in which colleagues are trusted and empowered to follow their individual tastes and passions. Three members of the department are full time, while two members of the department teach part time. We are all English specialists and teach across the three key stages.

Four classrooms are currently used almost exclusively for the teaching of English. All the rooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and audio-visual facilities. All English lessons in Years 7 to 11 are taught in their form groups; in Years 7, 8, 9, & 10 pupils have 5 x 40 minute lessons (out of a 40 period week), in year 11 pupils have 6 x 40 minute lessons per week. The librarian, to introduce and develop independent study and research skills, teaches one of the Year 7 lessons in the library. In the sixth form, students have 7 periods in the Lower Sixth or 8 periods in the Upper Sixth per week, shared between two teachers. At present there are two Literature groups in each year of the sixth form and around 30-40 students choose to study English at A Level each year.

Curriculum

We follow the National Curriculum in Years 7 to 11; our schemes of work are designed to be flexible enough to allow teachers freedom in the ways they deliver the course content. All our teaching is firmly based in literature; we do not use a course textbook. In Years 10 and 11 we prepare all pupils for examination in the AQA English Language and English Literature syllabi. Students in the sixth form prepare for AQA English Literature 'A' Level Specification A, this includes a focus on the topics of 'Love through the Ages' and 'Modern Times – Literature from 1945 to the present day'.

Resources

We are well-stocked with a wide range of literary and non-literary texts, and have a good collection of DVD material to back up our teaching; there is a developing departmental library of teaching resources. We collaborate closely with the library in a wide range of activities, and we continue to develop our use of ICT in English at all levels. The department also benefits from use of an excellent drama studio which can be booked for use in English lessons.

Other Activities

Regular theatre outings are organised; sixth-formers attend study days for revision purposes. The department is closely involved in school drama productions, and there is usually a Senior and a Junior production each year, as well as the House Drama competition which is held in the autumn term. We have a very popular and successful Junior Drama Club which meets weekly and mounts productions. The department also regularly enters students in a range of public speaking and creative writing competitions, including events such as Poetry by Heart.

Ethos

We are talented and professional teachers of our subject; we are committed to working together as a team, meeting regularly and sharing ideas and resources. Given the increasing demands placed on us as teachers of English by the National Curriculum and new syllabi, this has become even more important: fortunately the size of the school and location of our classrooms makes it easy to support each other. We strongly believe that pupils' experience of English should be as enjoyable as possible, and we think we are successful in this. We are proud of what we achieve and seek someone who can work with us to maintain our success.