



The English Department prides itself on providing a rich and engaging curriculum for all. We work with students to help them prepare not only for their exams but for the wider world that awaits them.

- Ludwig Wittgenstein once said, ‘The limits of my language are the limits of my mind. All I know is what I have words for.’ There can be no doubt that having a rich vocabulary improves all areas of communication. We therefore promise students will be exposed to a range of vocabulary in lessons that will not only enhance their examination responses, but also, more importantly, expose them to new ideas and improve their ability to express themselves throughout their lives.
- This is also why students will have Bedrock Vocabulary lessons, a weekly personalised digital lesson in the Teaching & Learning Centre that exposes them to essential high-frequency words, helping to enrich the vocabulary of our students no matter what their starting point is. We live in an increasingly digital age and are keen to use technology to increase engagement to further their learning.
- We work hard to cultivate an environment where there are high expectations for all students. Every student is unique and we believe that there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach. Building relationships with students is key to allowing students to flourish and find their own path. One of the ways in which we do this is by working closely with the middle schools so that we gain a much better understanding of the students and what they need to help them progress.
- We find that often students can lack a sense of self-belief in their own ability and therefore we strive to ensure that every opportunity is taken to praise the efforts of students through a variety of methods such as praise postcards home, notes or merits in planners, phone calls home, Student of the Week certificates or even a special Magic Muffin from the Refectory.
- The English Department believe in unlocking talent so that all students can fulfil their potential regardless of their background. Our department contains a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm. High quality teaching lies at the heart of everything we do. We engage students through in depth discussions where ideas are welcomed, misconceptions are challenged and provide regular feedback about students’ work. This creates a dialogue where students can identify their own strengths and understand what they need to do to improve.
- All students are assessed through a variety of methods such as formative assessments (short written tasks with specific targets), summative assessments (usually end of topic tests to gauge the depth of understanding) and teacher observations which allow us to build a rounded picture of the students’ progress. The English sets are fluid; students may move set at any point, depending on their individual needs. The individual requirements of the student always come first; we strive to ensure that students are placed where they will gain the most benefit.
- Most importantly, we want students to love English. We want them to see the relevance, we want them to connect to the wider world with both what has come before and what lies ahead. With this in mind, we choose texts that will challenge the ideas of students, texts that will make them think and realise that they are a part of a much wider world. We encourage them to find their own voice and use it to make a positive difference.