

The English Department

The English Department at Abbey Grange Church of England Academy has developed a reputation for being a hardworking and supportive team. We have consistently achieved high GCSE results in both language and literature, with 79% of pupils gaining A*- C grade in English language and 92% in English literature in 2016 (A combined A-C figure of 85%), and then, in 2017, 93% of our cohort achieved a 9-4 grade. In the 9-5 measure, we achieved 79%. In 2018, we achieved 45% 9-7 grades and maintained 80% in English GCSE. We strongly believe in encouraging all our students to reach their full potential, which is reflected in our excellent results and can be seen in the pleasing number of 9 grades which totalled 36 across Language and Literature.

In A-level English Language 70 % achieved A*- C at A Level. In English Literature, at A Level, 93% of students achieved A*- C. Across all A-levels 100% of students achieved at least A*- E demonstrating the department's continued commitment to helping students of all abilities to achieve. The successful candidate would, of course, be expected to be committed to continue to lead and develop the department's ethos of excellence.

Department Structure

Presently the English Department consists of thirteen specialist teachers. From September 2015 the department has consisted of an Achievement Director, Assistant Achievement Director, Achievement Leader, Teaching and Learning Progress Leader, a Lead-Practitioner and a Literacy Coordinator.

Curriculum

At Key Stage 3 and 4 students have between 3 and 4 one hour lessons per week. Students are placed into sets to ensure all students are both challenged and supported appropriately. We have an intervention programme, based on small group and individual withdrawal, in both key stages which aims to increase progression.

At present, Year 10 and 11 AQA specifications at both GCSE and Advanced level. Year 10 follows the new English Language and Literature specifications. We currently teach AQA Creative Writing at KS5 but this will be discontinued from 2017-18. We teach EDEXCEL Media Studies although we will move to AQA Media Studies for 2017-18 as a result of specification changes.

At Key Stage 3, the Academy follows the IMYC curriculum allowing cross-curricular teaching and joined up learning through thematic links. Staff and students work together creatively on the composition of themed units that are accessible and relevant to our students, enabling them to contextualise English within the modern world. The department believes strongly in the equality of access to learning.

Differentiation is by outcome or by task, as appropriate, and we aim to ensure all students benefit from a broad, innovative and relevant curriculum in English. Efficient data analysis allows the department to utilise intervention where most appropriate. There is a strong focus on stretch and challenge in order to allow all of our students to achieve to their potential.

Literacy initiatives are led across the Academy from our Literacy Progress Leader, who works with teams of staff and students across all departments and key stages, to place literacy at the heart of learning at the Academy.

We have high expectations of work and behaviour and take every opportunity to encourage students to achieve their full potential. All are expected to be on task and to complete work within clear deadlines. A learning culture in which students strive to improve their skills, knowledge and understanding is fostered through the delivery of the curriculum.

The department is well-established, with a range of age and experience. Some members of the department have taught at Abbey Grange for a number of years, but we are all enthusiastic and prepared to innovate and experiment with new approaches to teaching and learning. We are keen sharers of experiences, ideas and resources.

The successful candidate would be expected to contribute to the lively discussion in our departmental meetings and Department Learning Community (DLC) sessions and to work as a member of smaller independent groups to help develop the work of the department. A current top priority of the department is to continue to decrease the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students and increase the quantity of students who achieve grade 9. We seek to enhance the curriculum by theatre visits and by inviting into the Academy outside groups and workshops. In addition, we invite writers and performers whenever possible to work with smaller groups of students.

Attainment Information

GCSE Results 2018:

Students achieving 9-7 in English: 45%

Students achieving 9-5 in English: 79%

Students achieving 9-4 in English: 86%