



Teacher of English

"Life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

English at Altwood is a vibrant department who work collaboratively, support each other, and enjoy a positive and purposeful learning environment. We aim to inspire confident and capable communicators who approach their work in a thoughtful manner, believe in their ability and accept a challenge. We nurture our students' individual talents be that as an orator, poet, author or analyst, we wish to prepare our students so that they can flourish in the future.

The curriculum area consists of a range of committed subject specialists who share a passion for both achieving the best for our students and instilling a love of their subject. However, we work collaboratively to support the life of the wider school and enjoy the benefits of cross curricular work when appropriate.

English sits at the heart of our school community both physically and metaphorically. We are proud to offer our students a well designed and thought-provoking curriculum. At Key Stage 3, our curriculum aims to inspire learners from the outset through a range of carefully selected texts, author studies and debates. Students acquire a love for reading and the ability to form opinions and argue their views in an effective way. We use technology where appropriate, including access to a computer room, Accelerated Reader testing, and each teacher has a visualizer. We have recently invested in classroom sets of e-readers to support access and engagement with reading. We are fortunate to have well resourced specialist teaching areas. The English department was recently renovated, with a fabulous new library space, which is helping to develop our culture of fortnightly reading lessons and autonomy in choosing challenging reading material.

At Key Stage 4, we follow the AQA specification for both English Language and Literature. Text selection is regularly reviewed to meet the needs of each new cohort, but current texts include 'An Inspector Calls', 'Macbeth', and, 'A Christmas Carol.' Students have experienced strong success in the subject over successive years and a number further extend their learning through studying the Edexcel A Level English Literature syllabus at Key Stage 5, where small cohorts allow students to take leadership in text choices.

At Altwood we value each student as an individual. We understand that each student is on their own journey and we aim to nurture their specific talents. From our bespoke literacy support, previously highlighted as a real strength by Ofsted, through to providing a platform for public speaking, book clubs and creative writing competitions, we look to provide opportunities for all students to thrive. As a term, we work together to create a successful department, where students and staff are excited to share in the study of English. Staff and students take pride in their classrooms, with displays created together to support the students' learning, and marking that is purposeful, focused and achievable through clear schemes of work and marking guidelines. Lessons follow a dynamic and well-planned curriculum, where staff feel supported by a clear framework, while are confident to experiment with pedagogy to further engage students and develop progress.