



PRIORY SCHOOL

ENGLISH CURRICULUM AREA

The English Curriculum Area comprises of eight full-time teachers and two part-time teachers. Each member of the Curriculum Area is seen as an integral part of the team, working together, sharing ideas and developing resources.

The ethos of the Curriculum Area is one of shared commitment to realising the potential of each and every student. We work with enthusiasm, purpose, and humour. Within the Curriculum Area there exists a great range of expertise in many areas, and colleagues are encouraged to develop work within their own specialism to share with the rest of the team.

Students

Our aims are:

- To ensure that each student achieves their potential
- To guarantee equality of entitlement
- To encourage in students a passion for the written and spoken word
- To extend students' cultural capital and knowledge of English
- To develop independence of mind and a questioning approach

GCSE

We currently follow the AQA Specification for both English language and English Literature GCSE. We enter all students for both English language and English Literature. We aim to provide our students with a consistent experience of English, so all teach the same texts and work from a shared body of resources at GCSE.

GCSE Media Studies is a popular option subject for students in Year 10/Year 11. Media is taught by members of the English Curriculum Area.

GCSE English classes are currently taught in mixed ability groups. Classes come together at the beginning of Year 10 and remain, wherever possible, with the same member of staff for the two year course.

Our GCSE results are consistently excellent, with average total point scores significantly above both national and county averages, reflecting the ability of the students and the strength of the team. In 2018, both outcomes and progress were strong; students at Priory achieved the highest average attainment in English in East Sussex, 90.1% of students achieved a grade 5 or higher whilst 80.3% of students achieved a grade 5 or higher in English language, resulting in an overall progress residual of +0.56.

Key Stage 3

Key Stage Three is delivered through a range of units; from these are taken key skills-based pieces of work to form part of an ongoing record of assessed work. Several pieces are produced every year, representing a cross-section of an extensive and ambitious programme which more than covers the requirements of the national curriculum.

Assessment during Key Stage 3 is continual, with students' progress being recorded in their exercise books. Formal recording of progress, which is part of the school's policy of reporting to parents, takes place on a regular basis. We encourage students to set realistic targets for improvement, decided upon after consultation with the teacher.

Drama

Drama is a discrete subject and is taught by specialist teachers. Drama, in the form of acting out texts and bringing plays alive is, however, very much alive and well in the English classroom.

Library

The library is staffed by a full time librarian who is keen to assist us in our commitment to encourage students to view reading as a profitable and pleasurable activity. Joint sessions frequently occur, and there is much sharing of resources.

Every year, to celebrate Book Week, the Library and the English Curriculum Area participate in an event run by the Schools Library Service, where students visit the SLS centre in Eastbourne to listen to, and question, a high-profile children's author. Visitors to the school have included authors Pete Johnson and Terry Pratchett. Recently Sophie Mckenzie, Simon Scarrow and Chris Bradford have visited our year 7s.

Reading for pleasure is a real priority at Priory and we have encouraged all staff to promote reading through our Currently Reading Posters and termly STAR Time. We have also launched our year 7 reading club.

Cross Curricular

Firm links exist with drama and learning support, and the focus on literacy has successfully tightened bonds with other subjects where production and assimilation of the written word plays a vital role.

Accommodation

We are in the enviable position of having a suite of six modern teaching rooms as well as our own office and work room. An inner sanctum, equipped with two computers and our own kitchen, it is also a good place to chat over a cup of coffee or lunch.

Resources

All rooms are equipped with a DVD player/VCR and stereo CD/cassette/radio. Smart boards have been installed in the English Curriculum area in order to make the lessons more interactive and accessible. Stock is distributed to members of staff at the beginning of each term. We also use the office to centralise stationery and teaching materials.