

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL



The aims of the English department are two-fold:

- That every student achieve as sophisticated a grasp of literacy as they are able
- That all students develop a love of transcendental Literature.

The English Department has high academic standards and achieves consistently good examination results at all levels. Last year, our A-level students achieved outcomes that were significantly better than expected and our GCSE results continued to be of an excellent standard.

At Key Stage 3, the department aims to deliver the best aspects of the new revised National Curriculum as they apply to higher-achieving students, and has rolled back the principles of the new revised GCSE assessment objectives to frame learning in Years 7 to 9. In year 9, students begin introductory GCSE work in both English Language and Literature.

Years 7 and 8 are taught in mixed ability form groups of approximately 30 and are reorganised into sets according to ability in Year 9. GCSE English Language and English Literature are taught, following AQA specifications.

In the sixth form, students follow the AQA Specification B A-Level English Literature course and we have recently introduced AQA A-level English Language into our Sixth Form offer. These are both highly popular courses and are currently supported by a range of extra-curricular workshops and lectures.

There are six members of the English department; sixth form teaching and the distribution of sets is divided equitably between all teaching staff. Members of the department are friendly and co-operative, and work well as a dedicated team. We are always looking to improve and move with the times, ensuring that all students have an exciting and fulfilling experience of English.

Currently, there are five English classrooms all equipped with ceiling-mounted data projectors and DVD-playing facilities.

Finally, as can be expected from a department with the aim of promoting a love of reading, we have close working links with the school's Librarians. They help to coordinate the school's use of Accelerated Reader and our own reading programme which students spend allocated lesson and homework time on in Years 7 and 8.