

English at Kings

Ethos and Intent Statement:

Our English Department aims to empower students by ensuring they are able to express themselves through the written and spoken word. We offer pupils a broad, balanced, knowledge-rich curriculum in an environment designed to help students feel they can successfully appreciate the value of both literature and language. We expose students to challenging canonical texts from across time, exploring the techniques, meanings and intents that lie behind them.

We directly teach understanding and enunciation of a range of tier two and subject-specific vocabulary in order to give students the language they need to articulate themselves and access complex written texts. Students are given opportunities to change their written and spoken voices to suit different purposes, audiences and text types, while we support them in improving their oracy through discussion, debate and the teaching of rhetoric. We encourage them to elicit their ideas with clarity and coherence, both verbally and in the written form.

During their time at Kings College, students are exposed to a variety of viewpoints, time periods, cultures and contexts which challenge their perspectives of the world while encouraging them to make connections between their learning and their lives. Over time, students become open to cultural experiences outside their own and are able to offer viewpoints on the stories and themes they engage with across the course. We intend for our students to feel invested in the knowledge and experience our English Curriculum offers them, so they can advocate for themselves and others in the wider world.

In our lessons and books you will see:

- Live modelling
- Teacher modelling of excellent reading
- Challenging texts from a range of voices
- Direct Vocabulary Instruction
- Use of frequent Retrieval Practice in many forms
- Whole Class Feedback with personalised DART tasks

Our feedback:

- Is given twice a cycle to all, other than in Half Term Four where KS3 receive one piece of feedback in order to allow for additional Year 11 marking
- In the “Whole Class Feedback” format with criteria for success clearly broken down using the EDUQAS GCSE mark scheme as a guide point
- Features personalised DART tasks that help students move forward, with clear explanations of what they need to improve on and why

We are currently focussing on:

- Ways to prime students for difficult texts and plan questioning for challenging material
- Developing the Year 8 and Year 9 curriculum to offer provision of A Level English Language Studies
- Ensuring our curriculum is inclusive as well as challenging, by including a range of voices
- Developing narrative writing skills at KS3 that will support success at KS4