

## Department Information

At Shavington, our curriculum is based around more than academic success; we aim to develop the character of our pupils through 9 key values which are an integral part of everything we do both inside and outside of the classroom.

Pupils are encouraged to be **ambitious** in their approach to tasks and to show **resilience** at every step of their learning journey. In nurturing a safe environment in our English classrooms, pupils feel confident when contributing to class discussion and sharing their work with peers and this is proven to have a positive impact on attainment.

Many of the English schemes of learning focus on current affairs and aim to develop the cultural capital of our pupils in preparation for the wide range of topics they could face as part of their GCSE study. We also carefully choose our class reading material to allow us to promote **tolerance** of others' viewpoints and ideas and pupils also learn to be **respectful** of differing viewpoints through structured oracy discussions around a wide range of topics.

Above all, pupils at Shavington take **pride** in their work and thoroughly enjoy the mix of creative and analytical tasks on offer to them throughout their learning journey.

## Theatre Visits

As a department we value the cultural experience of attending theatre performances and enjoy offering pupils the chance to enhance their learning through visual representations of the set texts. ManActCo. is a touring theatre company whom we invite into school each year; this specialised Theatre in Education Company works specifically on securing and consolidating pupils' knowledge of the set texts for GCSE. Feedback from the pupils has always been positive and the Q+A session has always proven a valuable device for exploring characters and themes. The texts were brought to life for the whole of our KS4 cohort.

## How parents can support their children in English

Parents have a huge part to play in maximising the progress made by pupils in English.

- Ask them questions about the topics they are studying
- Help them to revise the key terminology
- Encourage revision of spelling and grammar activities
- Ensure your child has the correct equipment. Every pupil is expected to have a pen, pencil, ruler and a highlighter
- Check that pupils are producing their best work in their exercise books
- Ensure homework tasks are completed

## Feedback and Assessment

KS3 - Pupils will sit progressive assessments at three key points throughout the year and these will be formally assessed, however, progress is monitored regularly throughout the year through structured responsive assessments, various learning activities and homework tasks.

At KS4 we follow AQA Exam board and pupils sit the following written examinations:

Language Paper 1 - 50%

Language Paper 2 - 50%

Literature Paper 1 - 50%

Literature Paper 2 - 50%

Pupils are also required to undertake a speaking and listening assessment which is moderated externally and reported as a separate grade on the students' final examination certificate.

Year 10 and 11 pupils will sit mock examinations at interim periods throughout KS4.

## How we Stretch and Challenge our pupils in English

All pupils are encouraged to challenge themselves within English, by enhancing their own knowledge; developing independent learning strategies; being a resilient learner and writing ambitiously and creatively.

Due to the demands of the new GCSE, pupils are challenged from the moment they join Shavington Academy in Year 7 through the texts we incorporate into lessons; the topics we cover and the expectation for academic language to be used as part of the everyday language in our English classrooms.

In Year 9 pupils are stretched and challenged through the exploration of the GCSE set texts and the introduction of GCSE style analytical writing. Year 7 and 8 pupils are also challenged with the introduction of many of the GCSE skills being taught as part of the KS3 schemes of work.

We use the pupils' own work as exemplar responses for others to aim for, or even try to exceed the standard of, and success criteria is a large part of most tasks to provide pupils with the ingredients for an outstanding piece of work. We also provide pupils with the tools and resources to help them improve their work. We use a 'top-down' differentiation approach and always ensure that the highest possible grades are attainable for all pupils within English.

Pupils are given homework tasks which aim to promote and further improve their independent learning skills. Pupils are given individual feedback on assessment tasks and key pieces of work which stretch and challenge existing knowledge and aim to improve their attainment even further. The review process following any assessment is a dedicated activity within all English classes and one in which pupils take an active role.

## Enrichment Opportunities

Various local and national reading, writing and spelling competitions and clubs are run throughout the year. Details will be provided for each event as and when they are released.

Club	Day	Teacher/Room
Creative Writing	Wednesday lunchtime	Mrs Pierpoint E3
Film Club	Thursday lunchtime	Mr Cooke/Miss Knapper E6
Journalism	Tuesday lunchtime	Miss Roebuck E5

## Useful websites:

[www.bbcbitessize.co.uk](http://www.bbcbitessize.co.uk)

[www.rsc.org.uk](http://www.rsc.org.uk)

[www.sparknotes.co.uk](http://www.sparknotes.co.uk)

[www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english)

[www.senencallearning.com](http://www.senencallearning.com)

[www.bedrocklearning.org](http://www.bedrocklearning.org)

## Staff List and Contacts

Twitter: @Shav\_English

### **Director of English:**

Miss V. Knapper

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### **Assistant Director of English:**

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### **Department Staff:**

Mrs E. Casewell

Mr A. Cooke

Miss J. Hughes

Miss E. Robinson

Miss K. Roebuck

Miss J. Steele

Mrs F. Connell (maternity cover)



