

## **English**

At Key Stage 3, students are taught in mixed ability classes and study a sequence of units designed to develop skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening. Assessment and feedback is a key part of the learning process and students are taught to set, reflect on and review targets for improvement. There is an emphasis on the study of challenging whole texts, both in class and individually as part of our Reading Challenge. In Year 9, schemes of work are designed to prepare students for GCSE work, for instance through the close study of a Shakespeare play. By the summer term, students are assessed using GCSE criteria.

For GCSE, students are taught in mixed ability classes and the vast majority of students will study both English Language and English Literature. Recent national changes mean that all students are assessed only by examinations at the end of the course.

Students will develop their reading and comprehension skills, as well as their ability to write in different forms. They will also study a range of texts, including Shakespeare and pre-twentieth century literature.

Students' study of English is enriched by diverse and exciting events organised by the department. These include evening and matinee theatre visits, study days and visits by authors, actors and poets. All students have the opportunity to experience extra-curricular activities.