



# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Longsands Academy

## Our vision for English at Longsands:

- We hope to foster a love for our subject amongst our students, inspiring them to explore different texts and time periods, in order to develop both as students and as people.
- We nurture students' cognitive and critical thinking skills, developing them independent and resilient learners.
- We work collaboratively, sharing good practice and working together to implement rigorous programmes of study which stimulate students of all abilities.
- We are committed to fostering teachers' own enthusiasms and strengths within the classroom and encourage a variety of texts and strategies at KS4.
- We develop and share high quality resources, innovative approaches, and effective strategies in department meetings and on the Academy's VLE.

## What do we teach?

### Key Stage 3:

We have developed our KS3 curriculum to provide not just rigour and challenge, but breadth and awareness of a range of genres and modes of writing. We endeavour to expose our students to 19th century literature, Shakespearean plays, Romantic and Gothic poetry, screenplay writing and revolutionary texts across the three years. We have a mastery curriculum and have developed our own assessment framework to best support this.

### Key Stage 4:

At GCSE we follow both the AQA English and AQA English Literature specifications. We encourage teacher autonomy in text choice at class level, in order to best support our students and staff alike. We are extremely proud of our examination results. Last summer, 76% of students achieved a 4+ which we were thrilled with.

### Key Stage 5:

At A-Level we teach the AQA English Literature B and AQA Language and Literature; as the St Neots Sixth Form Centre only offers two year linear A-Level courses we do not currently teach AS. At A-Level we have consistently achieved a 100% pass rate with the majority of our students achieving A - C, with several going on to further study at university.

## Extra-curriculars:

We are dedicated to providing enrichment across all areas of the curriculum for all of our students, from KS3 to KS5. We promote national and international literary events, such as BBC School Report, World Book Day, and the Carnegie Award. We are closely linked with our local Rotary Club, who run a variety of writing and rhetoric competitions across the year. We have also established Longsands Shakespeare Company for enthusiastic KS3 students to explore drama.

We aim to offer our students access to live events, such as visiting Shakespeare's Globe and the National Theatre, attending Poetry Live conferences and even cinematic viewings of plays through the NT Live programme and our links with Cineworld St Neots. We are also taking part in the National Theatre's New Views Play Writing programme in conjunction with Kimbolton School.

## Turn over for further information about the department!



## Department members:

- **Isabelle Fox** Head of English
- **Isobel Woodger** 2 i/c English Department; Head of Y9 and KS5 English
- **Carlene Waters** Lead Practitioner, Head of Y7 and 8 English
- **Nicola Andrews** Head of 16 - 19, Teacher of English
- **Kelly Bingham** Head of Aspen, Teacher of English
- **Helen Breakspear** Assistant Headteacher KS3, Teacher of English
- **Cathy Chilman** Senior Assistant Headteacher — Learning and Teaching
- **Ashley Hewitt** Teacher of English
- **Peter Jeffery** Teacher of English
- **Karyn Nash** Teacher of English
- **Robin Owen** Teacher of English, Stretch & Challenge Representative in English
- **Susannah Prabhu-Naik** Staff Development Co-ordinator
- **Cathy Smith** HLTA in English
- **Kelly Smith** Teacher of English
- **Fiona West** Teacher of English

## Departmental resources:

Each teacher usually has their own teaching room in the English block; this room is also used for their tutor group. All rooms are equipped with a Interactive SMART board and desktop computer; all teachers are issued with an iPad and staff laptop. We also have an English computer room, with 30 computers for student use.

We have our own departmental office, equipped with two further desktop computers; this is where most of the department gather for break, lunch and Cake Fridays.

## Responsibilities as an English teacher:

- National Curriculum teaching at KS3, KS4 and KS5.
- Monitoring of pupil progress through target setting and engaging with data.
- Contributing to the development of schemes of learning.
- Assessment and regular marking of students' work.
- Examination preparation, moderation, and marking.
- Getting involved extracurricular opportunities.
- KS5 NEA administration.
- Initial responsibility for classroom discipline and safety.
- Attendance at department and parents' meetings.

## Turn over for further information!

