



Crookhorn English. Learning, together...

***...to improve our understanding of how language works and is used, through listening and reading;
...to improve our use of language, in speaking and writing;
...to read a variety of rich and rewarding texts;
...to explore other people's lives, in both fiction and non-fiction;
...to develop our independent, critical thinking skills;
...to realise our potential...and to enjoy our discoveries!***

Staff and Resources

The English department is an exciting, vibrant and industrious area within the College at both Key Stages 3 and 4. Relationships between staff and with students are very strong. We work in a collaborative, collegiate atmosphere of mutual support. We share ideas and resources readily and are supportive of each other over classroom teaching and learning issues and strategies. We meet regularly and talk openly, both formally and informally, to discuss curricular concerns and student progress.

The department comprises eight staff: the Head of Department, second in department and six full time teachers. All staff in the English department are conveniently based in the same area of the College. Each member of staff has their own laptop and every classroom is fitted with a projector. We are continually adding to our resources in terms of book stock and are supported by an excellent Library/Resources area which has a full-time librarian.

The successful candidate will join a department which is determined to foster a love of English in its students, which is relentless in its drive to secure their progress, and which aspires add tangible value to its students' lives, both now and for the future.

Key Stage 3

Progression across Key Stage 3 will be a key focus for the successful candidate. The department continuously and rigorously reviews Year 7 and 8 schemes of work to service the Curriculum and in order to lay the foundations for GCSE. Critical thinking lies at the heart of all students' activity. Schemes of work and medium term plans are revised as live works in progress and planning and reviewing of learning is embedded onto the College's learning platform, 'itslearning', to ensure they meet the needs of our students in securing age appropriate achievement and above average levels of progress.

Students are grouped in standardised sets for eight lessons per fortnight over a fortnightly timetable. Schemes of work and medium term plans are geared towards specific assessment foci for reading, writing and speaking and listening. All schemes of work incorporate regular assessment against the individual student's age –related expectations of attainment and follow the principles of the Crookhorn Learning Model 'Open Mind', promoting dialogue for learning after every formal assessment. Above all, students are expected to be active, reflective partners in their learning.

Key Stage 4

In line with central government expectations, students are entered for certification in both English Language and English Literature at the end of Year 11: students follow the Eduqas 9-1 specifications.

Students start pre-GCSE study in Year 9, following an integrated skills-based course which teaches and develops critical reading and writing skills through the reading of a range of high quality fiction and non-fiction literary texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, as well as founding the technique and resilience required to respond under examination conditions.

Building on this foundation, the English Language and English Literature specifications are then delivered in Years 10 and 11. Students are currently taught in standardised sets by a single teacher for eight lessons per fortnight in Year 10 rising to nine lessons per fortnight in Year 11. As far as possible, teachers are encouraged to select and teach those texts in the set text list about which they are themselves most passionate.

To secure consistency, Schemes and Schedules are put in place for each cohort to support both learning and delivery. Again, planning and reviewing of learning is embedded onto the College's learning platform, 'itslearning'. The required range of reading and writing skills are delivered, studied and revised in depth and students refine their examination skills in Year 11. When possible, opportunities are held to enrich students' learning these can take the form of Master Classes or weekly enhancement sessions.

For both Key Stages, theatre trips, author visits, Easter and Summer Schools also add vital value through the Department's 'Opening Doors' initiative, conceived to support both those in need of intervention and to foster both more and most able and high achieving students.

Further information may be found at

<http://www.crookhorn.hants.sch.uk/students/Curriculum.aspx>

Professional Development

As a College we are extremely keen to offer our staff opportunities to develop their pedagogy practice and wider professional attributes. To this end we offer:

- coaching for every member of staff;
- excellent opportunities and preparation for career development;
- high quality professional learning opportunities.