

## An introduction to the English Department

We are a successful team with a passionate commitment to making a difference to children's lives and ensuring that all students have the highest possible learning experience whilst studying English at Westborough. At the core of our success, we have highly effective practitioners, who not only instil a climate of stability within the department, but inspire others to be equally dynamic through a strong commitment to tailoring professional development.

As well as our established, effective practitioners, we have members of staff who are new to the profession, who feel completely supported by all members of staff as they can approach any member of the department for help and new ideas. Furthermore, our ITT students on placement at Westborough High School are confident and creative which demonstrates that all staff are enthusiastic and passionate about taking on responsibility and contributing to the development of the department.

A key feature of the department's work and ethos is its commitment to constant improvement; staff enthusiastically contribute and receive ideas about how to improve our teaching and our students' learning. Thus, in English, students often reach, if not exceed their expected progress by the time they reach Year 11. With regards to exam performance, results are on an upward trend, a testament to the department's vision and drive for excellence.

In addition to student achievement, the ability to promote an enjoyable stimulating learning environment to develop an appreciation of the subject, is a key strength of the department. Not only as a team do we devise schemes of work to provide high quality learning, but we devise lesson plans and sequences of activities which enhance both enrichment and creativity through the study of language and literary texts. Lessons within English are interesting, stimulating and enthuse our students to exceed all expectations.

Due to this strong ethic of collaborative working within the department, we pride ourselves not only on our clear and shared values and expectations, but also on good relationships between staff and students. We are an experienced, highly committed team, a team which supports each other through a range of strategies. Some of these include: mentoring, collaborative planning, departmental Inset, sharing of good practice at meetings, team teaching, paired observations, internal standardising. Thus, new members instantly feel like they belong as they are greeted with a friendly supportive environment which also encourages them to take on new challenging opportunities.

We look forward to welcoming you to our team.