



Overview

The English Department at George Salter Academy is a highly skilled group of professionals who offer their students a fantastic range of learning opportunities throughout their time at the Academy. We are committed to providing students with an enriching and dynamic learning experience, inspiring a love for both literature and language.

Study Support

The department offers a wide range of opportunities in order for all students to engage actively in English and fulfil their potential. Study support sessions are provided across the key stages on a regular basis throughout the academic year. Enrichment programmes are also provided during school holidays.

What the students say about the department

"English lessons have a really positive atmosphere. You're never scared to give your opinion." [SD]

Contact

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Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

All Key Stage 3 students enjoy a varied curriculum that helps to develop skills in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

Year 7

Students in Year 7 enjoy a varied curriculum that begins with them learning about one another through a range of non-fiction writing. They also study novels from authors such as David Almond and explore the poetry of Wilfred Owen. Such texts are chosen to challenge and stretch the creativity of students. All pupils follow the Accelerated Reader programme which aims to develop independent reading skills and inspire a love of reading.

Assessment

All schemes of work ensure that all students acquire skills in order to meet the objectives for Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. They are assessed in a range of ways including formal written assessments.

Enrichment

There are many opportunities for enrichment which may include theatre trips and visits by authors.

Year 8

Students in Year 8 engage in a skills driven curriculum which helps them to prepare for the rigours of GCSE exams. They explore novelists such as Charles Dickens, Shakespeare and Poetry from other Cultures through schemes of work that stretch and challenge pupils as well as meeting their individual learning needs. Year 8 students also benefit from studying media and the moving Image which develops analytical and creative skills.

When responding to fiction and non-fiction texts students are taught how to structure their ideas, use subject specific terminology and how to write accurately for different audiences and purposes. Speaking and Listening is a further priority for the programme of study for year 8 to help students develop self-confidence and life-long communication skills.

Assessment

All schemes of work ensure that all students acquire skills in order to meet the objectives for Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. They are assessed in a range of ways including formal written assessments.

Enrichment

There are many opportunities for enrichment which may include theatre trips and visits by authors. Students will also have the opportunity to be involved in a cultural project.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11)

At Key Stage 4, students follow two courses: AQA GCSE English Language and AQA GCSE English Literature.

Year 9

This year aims to give our students the broadest introduction to GCSEs as possible by giving them an opportunity to complete GCSE style assessments. Students follow a GCSE AQA English Language style course alongside AQA GCSE English Literature.

They will study interesting texts such as *Of Mice and Men*, Unseen poetry and non-fiction texts from the 19th and 21st centuries. This year is a great opportunity to develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in preparation for GCSEs which will be undertaken at the end of Year 11. Students will also have the opportunity to write creatively which will help to raise students' literacy skills and improve their understanding of the importance of writing with a clear sense of audience and purpose in mind.

Assessment

Students will complete assessments which will enable them to develop skills to achieve the Assessment Objectives for reading, writing and speaking and listening. Assessments are of a formal nature as students complete exam style questions under exam conditions.

Year 10

In year 10 all of our students study the set texts required for the linear AQA GCSE Literature exam. Students will study a 19th century novel such as Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* or Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Students will also explore a modern text and an anthology of poetry.

Like in Year 9, students will also develop the skills required for the linear language exam. They will have the opportunity to write creatively and also develop writing skills that focus on non-fiction texts that will help to raise students' literacy skills and improve their understanding of the importance of writing with a clear sense of audience and purpose in mind.

Assessment

Students will complete assessments which will enable them to develop skills to achieve the Assessment Objectives for reading, writing and speaking and listening. Assessments are of a formal nature as students complete exam style questions under exam conditions. There are no Controlled Assessments in Year 10.

Year 11

Current Year 11 follow the linear AQA GCSE English Language and AQA GCSE Literature English courses. It is a time to consolidate and build on the learning from Year 10. Students have opportunities to revise set texts: Macbeth, 19th Century novel, Blood Brothers and Power and Conflict anthology of poetry. They also engage with 19th and 21st century non-fiction texts required for the language exam. Students also continue to develop creative writing skills as they respond to a range of engaging stimuli. We hope that the texts taught enrich students' experiences of the world around them and promote a love of reading. Students will all have the opportunity to develop presentational speaking and listening skills.

Assessment

Students complete assessments which will enable them to develop skills to achieve the Assessment Objectives for reading, writing and speaking and listening. Assessments are of a formal nature and students sit two complete formal mock exams: one for English Language and one for English Literature to prepare them for the final exams at the end of the year.

Enrichment opportunities Years 10 and 11

- Theatre trips – Blood Brothers, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
- Cinema trips: Live screening of Jane Eyre
- Study Support workshops at conference centres

Exams

In 2017 Year 11 sits for the first time the new specification linear examination.

AQA English Literature:

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century Novel 40% exam.
- Paper 2 Modern Text and Poetry 60% exam.

AQA English Language:

- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 50% exam
- Paper 2 : Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 50% exam

Exam results	2014	2015	2016
GCSE	82% A*-C; 100% A*-G; 3LP 95%; 4LP 55%	78% A*-C; 99% A*-G; 3LP 71%; 4LP 32%	23.1% A*-A; 73.6% A*-C; 98.4%; A*-G

Post 16

The English Department have a significant role to play in the lives of our Post-16 students. English Language, Literature and Film studies are taught to Level 2 students; whilst at A Level the Department offer courses in English Literature and Film Studies.

A number of our students have gone on to study related courses at University - English Department

Year 12

AS English Literature focuses on how narratives are constructed by authors, and the different ways in which they can be responded to by readers. Texts studied currently include *The Kite Runner*, *The Great Gatsby* and poetry by Tennyson and

Browning. Coursework focuses on analysis of the Dramatic genre of Comedy (The Importance of Being Earnest and The Taming of the Shrew).

AS Film Studies allows students to study the relationship between producers and audiences of film, with particular reference to Hollywood and British film. Coursework offers students the opportunity to produce their own film extract and an analysis of a film of their choice.

Trips

AS English Literature: Visits to local and national theatres, libraries and off-site lecture days.

AS Film Studies: Cinema trips are a frequent feature of this course!

Year 13

A2 English Literature involves the study of Gothic texts (currently Frankenstein, Dr Faustus and The Bloody Chamber), students evaluating them against some of the commonly accepted principles of the genre. Coursework involves the application of a critical approach to a text of the student's choice and a comparative study between two other texts of the student's choosing.

A2 Film Studies widens students' experience of film, developing an appreciation of aspects of the history of film and its cultural diversity. Films focusing on Urban Conflict (Tsotsi, La Haine and City of God) and Emotional Response (weepies/horrors...) are studied. Coursework again enables students to develop research skills and creative and production skills through more advanced film projects.

Trips

A2 English Literature: Trips include visits to local and national theatres, libraries and off-site lecture days

A2 Film Studies: Cinema trips are a frequent feature of this course!

Exams

Exam results	2012	2013	2014
AS English Literature	75% A*-C 100% A*-E	40% A-C 100% A-E	61% A-C 100% A-E
A2 English Literature	38% A*-C 100% A*-E	86% A-C 100% A-D	38% A-C 100% A-D

Exam results	2014	2015	2016
AS Film Studies	88% A-C 100% A-D	82% A-C 100% A-D	86% A-C 100% A-D
A2 Film Studies	not offered	50% A-C 100% A-E	63% A-C 100% A-E