



## 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	2015	2016	2017
GCSE	78% A*-C; 99% A*-G; 3LP 71%; 4LP 32%	23.1% A*-A; 73.6% A*-C; 98.4%; A*-G	English Language: 37.5% 9-5 (A* -B/C); 58.5% 9-4 (A*-C)
			English Literature: 46.6% 9-5 (A* -B/C); 71.6% 9-4 (A*-C);

## Post 16

At KS5, the English Department offers several courses.

Click on the link below for further information:

- **[English Literature - A Level](#)**
- **[Film Studies - A Level](#)**