

Our intention, in the English Department at LJFS, is to first and foremost instill a love of literature and language and to empower students to read and write confidently.

In Year 11, all students will sit GCSE examinations in English Language and English Literature, currently with the AQA specification. In Years 7-8, we focus on key skills in reading, writing and spoken English. Students are supported to write creatively and imaginatively, demonstrate a fluency in oracy and do so with accuracy. The curriculum is aspirational and exceeds the requirements of the National Curriculum; the smaller class sizes at KS4 enable us to deliver this successfully. We ensure a high level of challenge through a variety of complex and engaging texts some of which are chosen in relation to the interests of the cohort. We ensure that all students can access such texts through pre-teaching and a range of audio and visual tasks.

The curriculum has been selected to provide for an enjoyable, challenging, relatable and varied secondary school experience, with Key stage 4 study linking to Key stage 3 and the GCSE specification. The focus on genre and form in Year 7 is a strong foundation for English study and Year 8 aims to broaden cultural literacy by examining literary history from Beowulf to performance poetry with a specific focus on the work of Shakespeare and Dickens- exploring the treatment of ideas in these works alongside a full text. Study is sequenced to build on this KS3 experience so from Year 9, we frequently revisit and reference literary history and genres to aid memory, retention and consolidation of knowledge and process. Throughout Years 10 and 11, the curriculum is designed to revisit the core texts and skills and is personalized around the learning and feedback from the students. It uses evidence-based approaches to teach several skills concurrently and constantly interleaves the texts to approach character, themes and language in a variety of ways that increase depth of learning, consolidate existing knowledge and challenge thinking. Sources outside the specification are studied to support understanding and reflect the growing maturity of the students.

We also focus on extended writing to support tasks across curriculum subjects. We aim for all students to be equipped with the language to express their feelings and thoughts and to be curious readers regardless of their past experience of English.

In Year 7 and KS4 we include a link to careers in English when we explore different styles of writing and writing to influence; highlighting relevant careers and where the skills are applicable to the world of work.

We strive for a broad and inclusive experience of literature that will support students in their own writing- for all students to see their work published; to own their own books; to experience theatre productions and performance poetry and to read and discuss work from experts in the discipline of literature.