

Wykham Park Academy English Department Vision

'Read the world. Write your future.'

Our main priority is for students to enjoy the subject. We want to engender a love of literature, develop assuredness in how they use language and a confidence in interpreting how others use language across written and spoken platforms. We aim to inspire a lifetime of reading and writing for pleasure.

As a team, we want students to have the confidence and curiosity to explore the cross curricular threads of history, art, culture, politics and psychology that run through literature and linguistics.

We recognise that assessment and progress are important, but alongside this we want to develop students' curiosity and creativity – to nurture the full potential of the child. Our aim is to promote cultural relevance and will do our best to support this in lessons and through wider learning opportunities, such as cross-curricular learning and theatre visits.

Academically, we want students to understand the progress they are making and be involved in discussions about their progress, creating a culture of collaboration and inter-independence.

We want students to understand and appreciate the relevance of their learning, both academically and culturally. Ultimately, we want to use literature, art and culture to help prepare students for life and work beyond school.

Key Stage 3

At Wykham Park Academy students in Year 7 develop a deeper understanding of different concepts through the Applied Transdisciplinary Learning programme. The skills they develop within ATL are very similar to those in English and we have tried to explore similar themes so that students can see these connections more easily. The aim of our curriculum at year 7 is to build resilience (as we explore some challenging texts), to embed key inference and deduction skills and for students to begin to see how they can apply what they learn as readers to how they flourish as writers. The texts we study allow students to discuss a range of topics and understand some universal experiences like love and loss and consider how they may empathise with others.

In Year 8 students develop their ability to analyse language and start to focus on writers' intentions. We hope to furnish learners in year 8 with the terminology that will allow them to discuss themes and ideas more precisely and to be more aware of genre, audience and purpose. Again, our texts allow students to discuss SMSC topics and to understand that everybody has their own unique experience. Students in Year 9 further develop their independent learning skills by completing tasks that look more like those at GCSE. They will be asked to manage their time more precisely and to produce responses that demonstrate their prior learning but in a carefully timed way. We also ask our year 9 learners to explore context more explicitly and evaluate how the writers' message may have been perceived across time.

Key Stage 4

Our curriculum at KS4 enables students to:

1. Develop their listening skills and their ability to filter and summarise information.
2. Develop their oratory skills so they can articulate their point of view and adapt their spoken English to a number of settings. We hope that our students leave Wykham Park equipped with soft skills that they can use beyond the classroom.
3. Develop their reading skills so they can tackle unseen texts with confidence and identify, analyse and compare a range of ideas across both fiction and non-fiction texts.

4. Develop their analytical skills so they can explore literary texts in a relevant, clear and focused way.
4. Develop their writing skills so they can be concise when needed, but also know when to develop their ideas so they have an impact.
5. Develop their awareness of writing texts that are clear examples of a form, are adapted to meet the needs of a specific audience and achieve their purpose.
6. Finally, we hope that students at KS4 will feel inspired to learn, create and rise to the challenge of two demanding GCSE subjects.