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Dear Colleague

English at Fairfield is taught through mixed ability classes at KS3 and moves into broad sets at GCSE. We sit the Eduqas English Literature GCSE at the end of Year 10, leaving plenty of time for students to concentrate on developing the skills needed for the Eduqas English Language GCSE at the end of Year 11. Students study a range of texts for Literature, including 'An Inspector Calls', 'Jekyll and Hyde' or 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Romeo and Juliet', as well as poetry from the Eduqas anthology.

Our KS3 curriculum forms the foundation for GCSE, but in a creative, fun and engaging way. We are constantly evaluating and reviewing our schemes of learning to ensure they are current, innovative and enjoyable for students, as well as looking at opportunities to develop more cross-curricular learning. All year groups study a class novel, poetry, a Shakespeare play, narrative writing and non-fiction reading and writing, with assessments that increase in challenge as they progress through the Key Stage. We also have weekly library and spelling lessons for KS3, where students have an opportunity to share the books they have been reading and use our department laptops to complete their personalised spelling pathway on 'Spellzone' – an online platform.

We pride ourselves on our results, which have been significantly above average nationally and among the best in the county for a number of years. We feel these results are down to our unwaveringly high expectations of students and the excellent relationships we foster with our classes during their time at Fairfield. Students believe that they can do well in English and trust us to support them in their achievements.

As a department, we share our resources and – for the most part - teach the same texts as one another to decrease workload, but also to ensure consistency across the department. We are keen to provide enrichment and cultural activities for students through extra-curricular trips to the Hay Festival, the Globe Theatre and Harry Potter Studios, and offer students the chance to take part in national competitions for public speaking through their participation in Mock Trial and ESU Churchill Competition.

Yours faithfully

Emma Worsfold
Head of Communications Faculty