

The English Faculty

Marple Hall has a team of thirteen English staff with 12 permanent teaching bases on one corridor. We are a hard-working, dynamic and very successful department with a terrific team spirit.

GCSEs in English Language and English Literature are offered by the Faculty. All our students are entered for AQA GCSE English Language and Literature. The department achieves strong results when compared both nationally and locally. For example, in 2024, 82% of students achieved a Grade 4 or above in either GCSE English Language and English Literature.

We have transformed our Key Stage 3 Curriculum over the past four years. Our Year 7-9 course is now fully resourced and offers students a rich, engaging and challenging experience. At Key Stage 3, students are taught discrete English Language and English Literature lessons.

In Year 7, the focus is on **characterisation**. Students are introduced to 'antagonists' in a range of classic literature: 'Oliver Twist', 'The Tempest' and 'Frankenstein'. In their English Language lessons, they create an antagonist for a spy story and write and deliver a presentation in which they consider 'How should we punish people who do bad things?'

In Year 8, the focus is on **settings** and **authorial intentions** as students explore 'nightmare and dystopian worlds' in 'Animal Farm', 'The Giver' and a selection of poetry from around the world. Their English Language lessons focus on creating their own dystopian world and delivering a presentation in which they consider 'Are we currently living in a dystopia?'

In Year 9, students explore the **theme** of powerful feelings and relationships in Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men', 'Romeo and Juliet' and a range of poems. Students also write and deliver a TED talk and write their own dual narrative.

At GCSE, the Year 10 course has been structured thematically. In the first term, students consider ideas about morality and responsibility in 'An Inspector Calls' and 'A Christmas Carol'. In the second term, students explore the theme of our place in the natural world, focused on their own descriptive writing and poems from the 'Power and Conflict' anthology. In the third term, students consider ideas about power and corruption in their study of 'Macbeth' and other poems from the poetry anthology. The Year 11 course focuses on reading and writing skills for English Language Papers 1 and 2.

Most importantly, the department is a very friendly, supportive and unified team. We are currently in the top-third centile for progress in the country, and we have the potential to climb much higher.

If you require any further information about the department, please contact me at laurence.graves@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk.

Laurence Graves
Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for the English Faculty

Determination

Honesty

Readiness

Respect

Spark

Our Community — Our Future

A place of excellence where learners are proud of their school and confident of success

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