Stretford Grammar School English Department

ETHOS

English is the second largest department in the school with five full-time members and one part-time. We believe in 'the life-giving power of literature' (Maya Angelou), and we model and promote a passionate commitment to 'words and ideas' in all our lessons. Oracy is positioned centrally in our lessons; rigour, creativity, and support typifies our style. Complementing this, Formative Assessment is embedded at an advanced level in our teaching practice; the school has subscribed to the highly-regarded SSAT programme since 2023.

CURRICULUM

We are proud to offer an original and distinctive curriculum that caters to the diversity of our student body, and which presents depth, challenge, and stimulation to all our students. All year groups have well-established, well-resourced schemes of work in place. These have been carefully planned with clear end of unit assessment objectives and all teachers in the Department share in the writing, planning, re-drafting and refining of these units of work on an ongoing basis. Our feedback procedures are rigorously student-focused and were highly praised during our most recent Ofsted Inspection in 2024.

RESULTS

In line with the performance of the school as a whole, results this summer were among the best ever in the English Department across a range of key metrics. At GCSE, 65% of students attained Grade 7 to 9 in Literature, and 63% in English Language. Our department performs superbly on the FFT's Similar Schools report, with disadvantaged students performing especially well when compared with disadvantaged students at other similar schools. At A Level, 100% of our students achieved Grade A to B in English Literature, with the department being the joint-highest performing in the school according to ALPS metrics.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our provision in extracurricular activities is central in delivering on our departmental ethos. Our students take part in the English Speaking Union's prestigious Performing Shakespeare competition and have performed at regional finals for the last two years. We offer many opportunities for students in Creative Writing competitions, with students regularly having work published in nationally recognised anthologies. This year we have also expanded our provision of student-led reading clubs. We have long-standing links with the three main Universities in Manchester and our students have collaborated with academics on innovative research projects. We regularly take our students on curriculum-supporting theatre trips across the North West.