



## The English Department

The English Department at The Leys is a well-established and stimulating environment in which to work. There is a strong academic ethos allied to a vibrancy of approach and teachers aim to communicate a love of the subject, in addition to fulfilling the demands of the specifications. Colleagues are highly qualified, professional, and very supportive of one another. The Department celebrates the literary interests of pupils and colleagues alike and the schemes of work we follow allow for independence and creativity in delivering the course.

The English Department is housed on the first two floors of the Queen's Building. The Department's facilities are excellent: each classroom is fully equipped with brand new AV systems that complement the use of iPads, allowing for interactive teaching and the use of digital innovation. The Department is well resourced with books and audio-visual resources. There is a spacious English Office where each colleague has a desk; this shared environment enables collaboration and community which are very important to the identity of the department. In addition, there is a Sixth Form Critical Library where A-level pupils can research, work or locate useful books to borrow.

The working atmosphere is positive and enjoyable which manifests in both the classroom and in the extra-curricular activities run by the Department. These range from the reading group, 'Speaking Volumes'; the A-level English Extension group for Oxbridge applicants; pupil participation in a range of competitions (both creative and analytical, internal and external); writing for the school magazines; numerous theatre trips to Cambridge and London as well as visits to sites of literary interest. The Department has welcomed several specialists to deliver programmes of study to pupils of all age groups and we have been visited by touring theatre companies, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, staff and lecturers from the University of Cambridge and King's College London and a number of novelists and poets. In recent years, we have made use of our digital provisions and have held remote workshops, lectures, and screened performances alongside live, in-person events. Senior School pupils also benefit from staff 'in-house' lectures which ensure that pupils think beyond their examination specifications.

In Years 7-9, pupils follow a broad-based course in three 50-minute periods per week to establish a good foundation of language skills, to read widely and become increasingly analytical in their approach. There are two mixed ability sets in each of Years 7 and 8, and five mixed ability sets in Year 9. Year 10 and 11 pupils work towards IGCSEs in English Language and Literature in four periods a week. The Department teaches the Edexcel IGCSE 4EA1 (English) and 4ET1 (English Literature) specifications. IGCSE classes are organised into mixed ability sets. Although there is a comparatively wide ability range, almost all pupils gain grade 7 and above and in 2023, 70% of pupils achieved grades 7 – 9.



English Literature (OCR) is a successful option for Sixth Formers at A level. In 2023, 100% achieved B grade and above.

The successful candidate must be enthusiastic about engaging pupils of all abilities and introducing them to a wide range of texts and styles of writing. The candidate must enjoy working within a team where a passion for literature, organisational skills and a sense of humour are valued. The department will support ambition and creativity amongst staff and pupils alike. This is a part-time position within a busy boarding school where other pastoral and wider curriculum responsibilities will form part of the successful candidate's role.

### **English Department Personnel**

Anna Divito BA, PGCE	(Head of Department)
Rebecca Howarth BA, PGCE	
Andrew Long BA, PGCE	(Housemaster, West)
Bertie Beeching MA, PGCE	
Stephen Hancock MA, PGCE	
Isabella Clarke MSt	