

SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENGLISH & MEDIA DEPARTMENTS

In English we teach engaging and challenging KS3 units covering: Drama, Prose, Poetry, as well as 19th century fiction and Shakespeare. Year 9 is used as a preparation for GCSE with increased focus on preparing students for 100% exams. Thus many assessment tasks are held under exam conditions. KS3 units clearly articulate into the new GCSE units of work for both Literature and Language.

All students at GCSE level follow AQA for both Language and Literature. At AS and A2 we offer both English Literature and English Language, both through AQA.

The English Department is staffed by 6 full-time teachers and 1 part-time teacher. We meet regularly to discuss teaching programmes and exchange ideas in planning for the future. We work to an agreed curriculum assessment map for each year group, setting common assessment tasks. We moderate regularly to ensure parity and accountability across all classes. The Department works as a team and everyone is expected to share in ideas, tasks and decision making to meet the continuing demands placed upon the core subject of English. Every member of the Department teaches across the age and ability range. Classes from Year 8 to Year 11 are set according to ability.

Students can opt to study GCSE Media Studies in Year 9 and A Level Media Studies in Y12. We currently offer the AQA Single Award at GCSE and follow the OCR A-level specification. However, as of September 2017, we will be following the new Eduqas GCSE and A Level Media Studies specifications. We cover a variety of topics: the film industry, the television industry and the magazine industry. In addition, learners undertake: storyboarding, scriptwriting and produce 'short' films, film opening sequences and film trailers.

The Media Department is well resourced with a central office, modern books and materials, and a whole range of audio-visual resources, including computers. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards and staff are encouraged to use them as part of their daily delivery of the curriculum.

Media Studies is taught in a fully equipped Media Suite which is fully computerised and has the required software for both KS4 & 5.

The Media Studies Department is staffed by 2 teachers: who only teach GCSE and A Level Media Studies. The department has expanded significantly in recent years: more learners selected to study GCSE Media Studies and A Level Media Studies than any of subject in the school. At present, there are three Year 9 cohorts comprising of around 26 learners each and two Year 12 cohorts

Both departments are forward looking and innovative. Expectations are high.