

English



The English Department consists of two full-time members of staff and four part-time members of staff. The Department works closely with the School's Co-ordinator of Learning Support. Strong links have also been forged with the Library and its resources are used by staff and pupils on a regular basis.

We aim to develop the language competence of all pupils through the four basic activities which constitute literacy and communication: reading, writing, speaking and listening. As teachers in this thriving department, we aim to provide abundant opportunity for each pupil to use English under conditions most conducive to improvement, thus raising achievement at all levels.

English at Rishworth

We teach Year 7 in mixed-ability groups. Such is the range of activities, skills and understanding which is required of pupils in English lessons, that it would be unrealistic to assume a generalised level of ability across them all. Mindful of this, we use a variety of teaching strategies to cater for all ability levels in a group. Getting the best out of everyone means giving everyone a wide range of tasks, together with experience and stimulus for all kinds of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

In Years 8 to 11 pupils are placed into sets according to ability. At the end of the respective year movement between sets is possible and all pupils are assessed regularly to enable this to occur. There is continuity of teachers from the beginning of Year 10 until the end of Year 11 unless pupils move sets.

GCSE: We offer pupils GCSE in both Language and Literature.

Advanced Level: We offer two subjects at this level - English Language and English Literature.

Outside the Classroom

The Department organises relevant theatre trips outside school and has also received several visits in school from theatre groups. We are always on the lookout for productions of set texts at GCSE and A Level as well as theatre which might interest younger pupils. For older students we organise days out to specific topic-based conferences at various locations in order to widen the scope of study.

We invite writers into school to work with students, encouraging reading and writing for pleasure and developing reading and writing skills. Pupils are also encouraged to enter writing competitions.