



# Welcome to the English Department

We are proud that 71% of students achieved the Grade 4 and above in English this year, 11% higher than last year. We hope to continue this rising trend through our ever evolving, rigorous yet engaging, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculums.

Our vision for the English department is to foster a setting where students thrive through their confidence to respond creatively and critically to a range of stimuli enabling them to achieve and exceed their potential.

## Frequently asked questions:

### What will my child learn in their first year?

#### **The Man with the Yellow Face and other short stories:**

Building on skills embedded at Key Stage 2, students will study structure and language through the reading of a short thriller story and gain familiarity with Narrative Arc and Vladimir Propp's Theory of Narrative, before planning and writing their own short story. They will continue wider reading and consideration of use of language and structure across a range of short stories with focus to grammar terminology and the application of this.

#### **Introducing the world:**

An introduction to a range of poetry from other cultures including early British, American, and Asian as well as responding to non-fiction articles about life in other cultures. This unit encourages students to contribute their ideas and opinions in discussion before learning how to format and develop critical essay skills.

#### **A Monster Calls:**

Using the triple award winning, best-selling children's story by Patrick Ness, this novel is used to provide links to our poetry unit in identifying similarities and differences in use of structure and language as well as exploring the development of some sensitive themes such as bullying, family relationships and bereavement. A popular choice of text across our Year 7 cohort this year and highly revered by the literary world, the themes are explored sensitively by our subject specialists and linked to non-fiction leaflets and articles for class discussion.

#### **Romeo and Juliet:**

Re-capping on their understanding of Shakespeare from Key Stage 2 and planned purposefully to coincide with History's study of the Tudors, students will develop an understanding of context to support an appreciation of this popular play. With focus to the King of Cats: 'Tybalt', Year 7 explore the action scenes and consider why this villain is still so engaging today; a perfect opportunity for some drama.

