



## **BISHOP VESEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

### **Information about the English Department**

#### **Philosophy**

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is a six form entry boys' grammar school converter academy situated in a pleasant environment of North East Birmingham, close to Sutton Park. Boys are selected for admission to the school on the basis of grammar school tests adopted by the Grammar Schools of Birmingham Consortium. The school has a large co-educational sixth form of 423 students.

We seek to appoint an ECT or an experienced teacher to join our ambitious and forward-looking school. Excellent communication skills are required to teach English throughout the age range including A level. There will also be a requirement to teach Humanities at KS3 and KS4. We expect candidates to show a willingness to participate in the extra-curricular support we offer students.

#### **Teaching and Learning**

The English Department is friendly, supportive and reflective. It aims for continuous improvement and encourages an inclusive team approach. It has an excellent record of academic success. Members of the English Department are actively involved in training and development across the school.

#### Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, English and English Literature are taught as an integrated course in Years 7, 8 and 9. In Years 7 and 8, pupils are taught in groups of thirty-two and in Year 9 are taught in groups of approximately twenty-six. Students study a range of prose, poetry and drama as well as creative writing. Work is marked regularly and formative assessment takes place once per half term; each assessment has a different assessment focus. In addition, students have a Big Write and reading lesson. Big Write lessons encourage students to be creative for pleasure as well as taking part in writing competitions. In conjunction with the library, students' reading habits are tracked and rewarded.

#### Key Stage 4

At GCSE, both AQA English and English Literature are taught to all students. Class size is approximately twenty-five; there is a top set and all other groups are mixed ability. GCSE results have rapidly improved since the introduction of the new specification GCSE. Since its implementation, at least 62% of students have achieved grades 7-9.

#### Key Stage 5

In the Sixth Form, English Literature is a very popular course with outstanding results. We are joined by students from other schools. Around 40 students take A2 English Literature. We operate two teaching groups in Y12 and Y13. The AQA A Literature specification is followed. Results are consistently 80% or above grade A\*-B.

### **Exam results**

The English department has excellent exam results at KS4 and KS5. In 2023, 65% of students achieved grade 9-7 in English Language and 69% of students achieved grade 9-7 in English Literature. Significant numbers achieve a grade 8 or 9. At A level, students achieved 65% A\*-B in 2023.

### **Other information**

There are six dedicated teaching rooms; all equipped with interactive whiteboard or projector facilities. The department works hard to promote the subject across the school with varied activities such as theatre trips, poetry competitions, and workshops with authors.

There are currently eight English teachers, including the Head of Department. English teachers principally teach English and they usually have teaching groups in most years. This post will involve teaching some lessons within the Humanities subjects at KS3 and KS4.

The English Department teachers are enthusiastic about the teaching of their subject and our pupils are able and want to succeed.

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