



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The English faculty is a welcoming, supportive, vibrant and exciting faculty with a real sense of community and spirit. We currently have nine teaching staff, full and part time, and are fortunate to have our own building which has eight English classrooms. We have the highest expectations of students and staff and have a strong history of developing staff within the Faculty. The Faculty is well equipped, has outstanding resources and is well organised and run by the English leadership team. We are also extremely proud of our GCSE results and are currently placed in the top 1% of schools nationally for English Progress 8.

Key Stage three

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are assigned classes according to prior attainment. Pupils have three, fifty-minute lessons each week and we aim for one English teacher per group. In Year 9 students have four fifty-minute English lessons per week. We have written our own SOLs to ensure all KS3 students experience an enriching and challenging curriculum that adequately prepares them for Ks4 and Ks5, while making sure their engagement is high.

Key Stage four

We teach the AQA syllabus for GCSE Language and GCSE Literature. The current set texts for Literature are: *Macbeth*, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *An Inspector Calls* and *Poetry of Power and Conflict*. Students are grouped according to prior attainment and have four fifty-minute English lessons per week. We alternate between Language and Literature Sineme of Learning per half-term to ensure that students receive a balanced curriculum which adequately prepares them for their GCSE exams. We have designed our own centralised banks of resources which include detailed SoL and lessons that are adapted by class teachers to cater to the needs of all of our students.

Key Stage five

At Ursuline High School, we offer both A-Level English Literature and A-Level English Language. English courses are extremely popular in KS5 and well-received by students. We teach the OCR syllabus for English Literature and the Edexcel syllabus for English Language. Many of our students go on to study English further when they leave the Sixth Form. We also offer Film Studies a part of our key stage 5 offer, and a willingness to teach some A Level Film Studies lessons alongside an experienced member of staff would be considered desirable.