



# COMMUNICATIONS FACULTY STATEMENT

## 2017-18

*“The English language is nobody's special property. It is the property of the imagination: it is the property of the language itself. Derek Walcott”*

**HEAD OF FACULTY: C. HASSELL**

### KEY STAGE 3

In Key Stage 3, a thematic approach is taken to English where students follow three termly units per year across years 7 to 8. These modules allow students to develop their spoken English, creative writing, analysis skills and comprehension. In Year 7, students study Biographies, Conflict and Identity in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and year 8 explores 19<sup>th</sup> Century Short Stories, Macbeth and Power and Leadership. All schemes of work have been devised in-house by the department and are regularly reviewed and developed. Each unit of work is followed by an assessment where progress is measured against grade specific criteria. From year 7, pupils are taught in sets based on ability. KS3 students receive 8 hours of English per fortnight.

### KEY STAGE 4

Students follow the AQA Specification in preparation for GCSE in both English Language and English Literature which are two separate qualifications. Year 9 acts as a bridge year between the KS3 and KS4 curriculum, where students will get their first glimpse at the selected GCSE Literature texts, but will approach those using English Language skills.

#### English Language GCSE:

English Language comprises of 2 papers, **Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing** and **Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives**, which are both worth 50% of the overall GCSE.

Skills taught in KS4 link directly to the requirements of the GCSE papers. Although these skills will have been embedded at a simplified level at KS3, they will be mastered through the KS4 years, enabling our students to have the best possible chances in accessing their GCSE exams. The skills required for the language papers include: Speaking and Listening, Creative Writing, Language and Structure analysis and summary writing.

#### English Literature GCSE:

English Literature requires students to study modern prose, Shakespeare, Poetry, and a 19th century novel. Also split into two papers, the English Literature GCSE requires students to analyse the form, structure and language of the texts they study.

#### **City Academy Curriculum vision**

*“Our vision is to inspire and challenge our students to excel in their curriculum pathway, make progress regardless of their starting point and become masters of their learning craft”*

English Literature comprises of 2 papers:

**Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel**

- 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare
- 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson

Paper 1 is worth 40% of the whole GCSE.

**Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry**

- 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell
- 'AQA Love and Relationships Poetry Cluster'
- 'Unseen Poetry'

Paper 2 is worth 60% of the whole GCSE.

English Literature requires a more developed and independent response to techniques used by writers to create meaning and effect in their texts. Students will have built the foundations of these skills during their KS3 years, and will master these skills during their KS4 years.

## KEY STAGE 5

**English Language:**

Our **AQA AS and A-level English Language** courses will enable students to build on the skills they've developed at GCSE, by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses.

The AS course will allow students to study **Language and Diversity** and **Language and the Individual**. In year 13 the topics covered include: Language Change, Language Acquisition and a creative coursework.

**English Literature:**

The department offers **AQA English Literature A** at A-level and take up is extremely healthy. In Y12 and Y13, students follow the course which culminates in two external exams per year and one written assignment known as the Non- Exam Assessment (NEA). AS, students study the novels, 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Emily Bronte's 'Wuthering Heights', Shakespeare's 'Othello' and the 'Pre-1900 AQA Poetry Cluster'.

For the full A-level, students continue to study Shakespeare's 'Othello', and they take one novel forward into Y13 out of 'The Great Gatsby' or 'Wuthering Heights' for Paper 1. Furthermore, they will also study new texts for Paper 2 including, 'The Color purple' by Alice Walker, Carol Ann Duffy's 'Feminine Gospels' and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams. Students will also be required to analyse both Unseen Prose and Poetry throughout the course, as well as complete a selection of wider reading to help them with their studies.

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