

“Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill ... They are companions, teachers, magicians, bankers of the treasures of the mind. Books are humanity in print.” Barbara W. Tuchman

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Our aim is to foster a love of English and for students to become confident, competent and successful in the key skill areas. English is vital for communicating with others, in school and in the wider world, and in studying English, pupils develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing which they will need to participate in society and in employment.

Students are offered a broad curriculum and they will study a range of texts, including Shakespeare, Dickens, poetry, novels and plays, as well as a range of non-fiction, film and media texts. We have an exciting author visit programme, and to date students have taken part in workshops run by famous children’s authors such as Darren Shan, Dan Freedman, Anne Cassidy, Pete Johnson, Derek Landy, Alan Gibbons, Julia Jarman and Sarwat Chadda! You can read all about author Julia Jarman’s visit to Bow School by visiting her website: www.juliajarman.com

Our students also benefit from our close links with the Globe Theatre, with regular theatre trips, theatre tours and drama workshops. Other regular events include visits to Westferry and the Guardian Education Newsroom and participation in the Speakers Bank competition.

Our curriculum

KS3

In Years 7-9 students follow the new National Curriculum programmes of study which cover the three components of Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. They will study Shakespeare, prose, drama, poetry, media texts, as well as a range of non-literary and media texts. They also develop their speaking and listening skills through group activities, discussion and drama activities. Students are encouraged to read widely and for pleasure, and to borrow books from our modern, well-resourced and very popular library.

KS4

Students follow the AQA GCSE English specifications. All students are entered for GCSE English Language and most will also have the opportunity to study for the additional GCSE English Literature qualification. Both courses provide opportunities to study a diverse range of non-literary, media and literary texts, including pre-1914 and modern prose, poetry and drama. The final GCSE qualification is awarded on a number supervised, controlled assessment tasks done over the two years and on the final examinations.

“English is the language of the future, the language of the computer. English is the most important tool you’ll ever need, no matter what career you choose. You have the right to English. Make it your right!” Benjamin Zephaniah, poet, writer, actor, TV and radio presenter.

