



English at Turing House School



We are very fortunate to have a team of passionate, skilled and dedicated English teachers with a broad range of interests and a wealth of teaching experience. There are seven members of the English department, including three members of SLT. It is a very highly regarded department within the school and within our Trust (RET). Last year, we achieved the best GCSE results in the borough.

The mission of our English department is to help every child fall in love with the subject and succeed, not only in public examinations, but also in building the skills they need for their futures. We all believe in the power of reading for pleasure, promoting this in our lessons and across the school.



Our schemes of work are designed to expose students to a wide range of texts, from a variety of genres, forms, time periods and writers. We teach language and literature lessons, and read whole texts as well as extracts. In Year 7, we focus on helping students understand 'The Big Picture' in a text. In Year 8, we move to looking at 'The Writer's Craft' and in Year 9 we look more closely at 'Voice, Intent, Perspective'. This sets a solid foundation for the skills students need at GCSE and A-Level, where we teach the Edexcel specification.

We regularly run writing competitions, reading challenges and theatre trips, and recently welcomed Bali Rai for an author visit and creative writing workshop.

We are national leaders in the effort to diversify our curriculum, and were one of the first schools to teach a text by a black female writer at GCSE (Malorie Blackman's 'Boys Don't Cry'). We have worked closely with Penguin and Edexcel on their 'Lit in Colour' programme in order to promote the importance of a diverse curriculum to all schools nationally.

You can watch our video here:

<https://www.turinghouseschool.org.uk/literacy.php>



Here is what the department have to say:

'I am fortunate enough to lead a wonderfully dedicated department who are always looking at how we can improve our practice to benefit our students.' - Hayley Andrews, Head of English.



'Teaching English at Turing is a delight. The students are so engaged with the variety of texts we have on offer and the department share a genuine love of their subject. The combination of incredible units and enthusiasm from teachers means that working in this department is a joy.' Lotte Kirwan, Teacher of English.

'This is, without a doubt, the strongest English department I have ever been a part of. I feel incredibly privileged to be a part of such an enthusiastic, skilled team who all support and encourage each other.' - Ellen Collins, Deputy Headteacher.



'I really love teaching the younger students; they are so eager and excited to learn. We teach them the wordless book 'The Arrival' in Year 7, and students of all abilities make wonderful progress with inference and finding evidence in texts. It is an absolute privilege to be part of this magic!' - Louise Harper, Assistant Headteacher & SENCO.



'I've really enjoyed joining a team of experienced English teachers who have the pupils at the fore of their practice.' - George Stevens, English Teacher & Head of Year 9.



'I'm thoroughly enjoying teaching in the English Department here at THS and working to support our students to fulfil their potential. Texts from the curriculum which I especially enjoy teaching include The Arrival, The Dark Lady, Much Ado About Nothing, Macbeth and contemporary poetry.' Matthew Wood, English Teacher & Joint Head of Sixth Form.

'I am so proud to be a member of the Turing House English department; we are a dynamic, supportive, student-focused team of professionals. We work together closely, drawing upon our experience and expertise in different areas of the curriculum to collaborate and design schemes that are creative, engaging and provoke discussion.' - Claire Curtis, Assistant Headteacher.





'I have really enjoyed my time at Turing House so far. I get a lot of support, both from the English department and the school as a whole. There is a strong sense of community at Turing House and I am proud to be part of this community' – Ana Fan, English ECT.