

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT JOHN RUSKIN SCHOOL

The English department is a thriving and motivated department with outstanding GCSE results. There are currently three members of the team: a subject lead for English, another full time English teacher and a higher level teaching assistant who helps us deliver Accelerated Reader at KS3 and runs the school library. As John Ruskin School is small in comparison with other secondaries, the subject lead for English is also the deputy head who is responsible for teaching and learning – this means we are looking for an organised, confident and skilled individual who can take a really active role in contributing to what is already a well-established team. We work together; we work hard and we have extremely high standards.

In all year groups, there are two English classes – they are mixed ability groups – as we are strong advocates of mixed ability teaching and our results confirm that this approach works. In the past three years, the English department has been in the top 10% of schools nationally under the Progress 8 measure. We are looking for someone who can actively differentiate in the class room, however, we also believe it's really important to challenge students and the English department uses a variety of texts – everything from Shakespeare to current newspaper articles; from Thomas Hardy to Carol Ann Duffy; Dickens to contemporary short stories.

The English department has two dedicated rooms – one of which doubles as the library. There is an interactive white board and data projector. The ICT room is a bookable resource.

There are well established schemes of work at Key Stage 3, covering all three attainment targets. Students have exercise books to work in on a daily basis and then produce final core assessment tasks that go into Key Stage 3 folders. Some of these are completed as plan / draft / redraft pieces; others are completed under timed conditions. The English department has been a leading light in terms of quality marking and assessment at JRS and we are looking for someone who can further enhance this process.

Students have opportunities to read different genres of texts at Key Stage 3; write for different purposes and audiences and complete a variety of speaking and listening tasks. In Year 9, we have tried to ensure the course closely mirrors what students will experience at GCSE. The English department tries hard to keep resources contemporary and refreshed – we're looking for an individual who can sustain this established spirit of collaboration.

At KS4, students study for a GCSE in English Language and English Literature – we are an inclusive school and all students have the opportunity to gain a GCSE in English Literature, regardless of ability. We use the Edexcel exam board. 91% of students gained a GCSE 9 to 4 grade in Language and Literature in 2018. We need someone who can contribute to our outstanding results and can motivate students to engage with English and achieve high standards.

The HLTA who runs the library promotes reading across the whole school. We are constantly looking for ways to improve the literacy skills of students and the English department has been at the forefront of promoting strategies to improve reading, writing and speaking and listening in other subject areas. We use Accelerated Reader at KS3 and we are looking for someone who can actively support us with this aspect of English at JRS.

The English department already has a high profile in school with competitions and activities as well as trips – in recent years, we have taken students to Dove Cottage; seen theatre productions; taken part in the RSC live screening events and had visiting poets and authors in school. We have participated in the Rotary Club Youth Speaks public speaking competition and always celebrate events like World Book Day. A Christmas Carol at Keswick's Theatre by the Lake is already booked for November 2019! We want someone who is prepared to be inventive and promote English through extra-curricular activities or experiences. For example, we run really well-attended after school revision classes for Year 11 in the run up to their exams and we want a new member of the department who will contribute to maintaining these experiences for students.

The subject lead for English, as well as being deputy head, is an SLE within the South Lakes Federation and works one day per week for schools across the SLF. This means there is a wealth of support on offer for the right candidate. We need someone who can be resilient; follows and enhances established systems; can work independently but still sees themselves as part of a distinct and successful English team and most importantly, has a tangible passion for their subject. The students are used to very high quality experience in the English department and we are keen for this to continue.

We are really proud of our department and we're excited about welcoming a new face with new skills and new ideas – could you be that person?

If you want any further information about the post or would like to speak to the subject lead for English informally, please feel free to do so!

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Deb Wright – English teacher

Mel Hull – HLTA