English, Film & Media Department

The English, Media and Film Department is currently comprised of sixteen members of staff. We form a committed and enthusiastic team who work hard to maintain a supportive and collaborative working environment.

The department is motivated by a desire to share our love of both the English language and its literature. Through the study of English we wish to encourage our students to become independent, critical thinkers who feel they have been given the power to question the world in which they live. We also believe that the study of literature encourages young people to empathise. Through that empathy they develop an increased understanding not only of others and their viewpoints but also themselves and their position within the world. Developing a love of reading is at the heart of this.

We are passionate too about the study of Film and Media. Through the study of Film and Media students are given the skills and the confidence to engage critically and creatively with the 21st media landscape. We offer Media Studies at GCSE and both Media Studies and Film Studies at Key Stage 5, all with a very good uptake.

Media Studies benefits from a designated editing area, photographic room and classroom. Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premier Pro are available in a variety of computer rooms and the department benefits from the assistance of a technician.

The department plays an active role in the life of the school. We offer a range of enrichment activities at all key stages. Over the past year we have hosted the Young Shakespeare Company’s performance of Romeo and Juliet, held the 9th annual Highams Park School Spelling Bee and worn our World Book Day costumes with pride. We have also taken students out on a range of educational visits, from the BFI Reuben Library and Keats House to the filming of Britain’s Got Talent.

The Department’s results are good. In 2019 78% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language, while 75% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in GCSE English Literature. At Key Stage 5 the picture is similarly healthy, with particular highlights in 2019 being the 82% of students achieving an A\*- C in English Language, with Film Studies and Media Studies scoring 91% and 65% respectively.