



ST IVO SCHOOL

Details about the English Department

We are a large department in a very large school but we work hard to maintain a close-knit and warmly supportive approach. We have a long history of success at every level of our work and the team is diverse in terms of age and experience. We value very highly those teachers who show that they really enjoy the subject and are able to communicate this effectively to students. The ability to form strong relationships with classes is essential. The students at the school are statistically above the national average in terms of ability but we cater for the whole ability range. We are very strong at post-16 and often have 100 or so students opting for English A-Level each year. Teachers in the department have to be good all-rounders, with the ability to teach the whole 11-18 range.

We are experienced in inducting new teachers to the department and many members of the department are skilled in offering help and support. We teach together in a purpose-built block of classrooms and new members of the department will be able to call on the full support of teachers working around them. Our facilities compare with the best in the country. Each teacher has his or her own classroom base and we take a lot of pride in making our rooms stimulating places to learn. Every room has an IWB and projector. Most teaching resources used are in electronic form. The book resources are very impressive with large numbers of up-to-date sets of books of all kinds. There is a departmental office and adjoining bookstore.

As a collective team, we have a lot of experience of teaching English. We tend to be pragmatic in our approach, looking for things which work with students. We see innovation as important and welcome new ideas. We teach in mixed ability groupings in year 7-9. We have devised our own materials for the fulfilment of the requirements of the Literacy Framework and these have been designed with the need to engage and enthuse students very much to the fore. They comprise nine English projects – one per term of KS3. They are intended to be used flexibly and benefit from, or even demand, individual interpretation for the projects to succeed. Each year we look to develop at least one new project to keep our outlook fresh. We maintain a strong belief in the importance of using literature in the teaching of English.

In year 10 and 11 we have top sets for our most able students but the majority of the population is taught in mixed ability sets. All students are entered for literature and language GCSE and we are currently using EDUQAS. At AS and A2 we use OCR and offer only literature.

Despite the pressures and ups and downs of the job the department is a highly resilient team and a good humoured one too. We are looking for someone who will really enjoy working with us and who will benefit from our experience but also be able to contribute to our future success. In a large department there are always opportunities to take on responsibility and over the years we have been successful in taking new entrants and helping them to acquire the skills and experience to move on for promotions in other schools. We remain receptive to new ideas and each member of the department is encouraged from the start to make important contributions to decisions at all levels.

It isn't easy to give a flavour of such a large and diverse team but I hope there is enough here to encourage you to apply. If you have any queries about the post or wish to view our school in action, then please contact me.

John Andrews
Head of English
jandrews@stivoschool.org