

Intention of English

The English curriculum at MV16 provides students with the opportunity to view the world around them through a variety of lenses; the breadth of language and literature encountered allows students to experience a diverse range of human emotions, conditions and perspectives. Through their study of English, our students will learn to appreciate and interrogate texts, analyse language and its changing use over time, consider the influence of the past upon the present whilst always being encouraged to ask as many questions as they answer.

Students can choose from A level courses in English Literature or the Combined English Language and Literature course. Both courses of study are carefully designed and delivered, by expert teachers, to develop reflective, empathetic, analytical and creative readers and writers who are able to truly understand the power of the written and spoken word. The curriculum in both areas has been carefully sequenced to build upon students' knowledge, understanding and awareness of language and literature.

Students of Literature will be introduced to an historicist approach to their study of a diverse range of texts which reflect the creation of literature through the ages. Students will develop their appreciation of the significance and impact of both the context of production and context of reception of texts, building upon the knowledge gained at Key Stages 3 and 4, to include relevant social history, critical theory and the evolution of language and ideas.

On the English Language and Literature Combined course, students will develop an exceptional foundation for the usage of a variety of language methods and the application of these to fiction and non-fiction texts, across a variety of genres. Students will be able to dissect a text precisely for meaning through the analysis of specific linguistic terminology in relation to the audience, purpose and context of their production.

Students will encounter high quality drama, prose and poetry as they study set texts, conduct independent research, pursue individual passions and respond to the evolving world around them.

Both courses of study provide the opportunity for students to follow an individual passion or area of interest, researching and writing in depth on texts and areas of their own choice. This will culminate in their independent NEA work – an excellent preparation for undergraduate study of the subject. This element of the curriculum fosters resilience, responsibility and the deep satisfaction of completing an extended piece of highly academic work independently.

English is a transformative discipline; our curriculum at MV affords students with the opportunity to discover and understand themselves, others and the world around them as we use high quality texts to provide a mirror, window and door for all who encounter them. The curriculum prepares learners to enter the wider world with the ability to discern, empathise, interrogate and appreciate – valuable qualities in all areas of life.