

## Curriculum Statement for English

### Curriculum aims:

At Vanguard School, the English curriculum is designed with a clear purpose: to engage, nourish and create critical thinkers. The Key Stage 3 curriculum develops key skills needed for Key Stage 4 and 5. Our aim is that every student leaves Vanguard with an English qualification, be it Functional Skills or/and GCSEs in Language and Literature as well as the experience of reading and studying fiction and non-fiction texts from a wide variety of writers and genres.

### Specific resources and schemes:

Each year has an overarching theme across all texts that will be studied, starting with ***Who am I?*** in Year 7, ***What is Tragedy?*** in Year 8 and ***What is Power?*** in Year 9. We teach Language through Literature whilst also developing necessary key skills needed for Key Stage 4 and 5 such as close reading, textual analysis and extended writing.

In each year we offer opportunities to develop a passion for reading and writing. Along with their class texts, there are ample opportunities to read a variety of books school wide and write in the style of different authors and genres. Students read a text of their choosing in form and English lessons to broaden their reading horizons. Alongside their English lessons, students also have timetabled Reading lessons to model collaborative reading, student-led reading and group-reading. All teachers and learning mentors encourage students to develop a passion for reading and all staff model reading for pleasure across the school. We have created reading nooks for students to read peacefully and on their own terms.

We recognise the difficulties our students may face understanding different perspectives and points and of views. We endeavour to ensure all students are given the same opportunities to develop Cultural Capital experiences as mainstream students. Students visit theatres to see play productions, take part in World Book Day, alongside external writers and poets coming in to run workshops for them. Students also have a variety of diverse and inclusive texts to study and read for pleasure.

### Qualifications:

By the end of Year 13, when our pupils leave Vanguard School, they will have been supported to engage in and achieve recognised qualifications. This will include some qualifications in key stage 4 and some in key stage 5. We offer a range of qualifications that are tailored to meet the needs of the individual students to ensure progress from their starting points. All qualification offers are discussed with parents and carers.



Our chosen exam boards are the following: AQA Literature (8702), AQA Language (8700) and Pearsons Functional Skills. The exam boards we have chosen fit in with the curriculum that we teach.

Our Functional Skills choice will enable all our students the possibility to leave school with English qualifications equivalent to GCSEs that are recognised and accepted by Higher Education institutions.