



English



Welcome!

A hearty welcome to our effervescent English department, here at Cardinal Newman Catholic School.

Our Purpose and Ethos:

Through the study of English our students will be encouraged and supported to be articulate communicators, avid readers and ambitious writers.

We facilitate and foster a culture of reading across the school but consider the English classrooms and the library to be at the core. We provide ample opportunity for our students to explore a diverse range and form of texts from a variety of cultures.

There is something in English for each and every student! Whether that be a dramatic performance of the Witches spell-casting around the cauldron in *Macbeth*; a quiet and reflective space to be able to express themselves in creative tasks; or through discussing and debating the motives of inspirational writers.

A student of English at Cardinal Newman will be challenged to question the world they live in through their investigation of literature whilst also learning the skills to express themselves in all walks of life. The study of English equips our students, yes, to be able to read knowledgeably and to write accurately but most importantly to be curious, to connect and to communicate confidently.

Key Stage Three:

We view KS3 as an opportunity to foster critical thinkers, effective speakers and accurate writers. We work towards building a toolkit of knowledge and skills that the students can draw on looking at both contemporary and classic novels, plays and poetry alongside non-fiction reading and writing.

Students who come to the school who were working below national expectations at KS2 may

follow a special catch up course which has in the past helped many of our students to be working at national expectations by the end of Year 7. The library plays an important role in our work with KS3 and all classes have a fortnightly library lesson to engage with their reading and quiz on their Accelerated Reader book.

GCSE English:

We follow the AQA English Language and AQA English Literature specifications. All students will be prepared for both examinations. We are enormously proud of our KS4 students and have an excellent record of high achievement, with over 18% students achieving grades 7-9 and over 78% students achieving grades 4-9 in 2024.

Meet the Team: (and their favourite books!)

- ❖ **Acting Head of Department: Avril Dowdeswell** – *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt
- ❖ **Assistant Curriculum Leader: Erika Fealy** - *North and South* Elizabeth Gaskell
- ❖ **Tony Smailes** – *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe
- ❖ **Julia Grant** - *The Little Red Chairs* Edna O'Brien
- ❖ **Julie Pratten** – *A Thousand Splendid Suns* Khaled Hosseini
- ❖ **Lisa Nicholls** – *Lord of the Rings* J. R. R. Tolkien
- ❖ **Morenike Oketunji** – *Americanah* Chimamanda Adichie
- ❖ **Sara Ali** – *To Kill a Mocking Bird* Harper Lee
- ❖ **Parsa Hussain** – *The Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini
- ❖ **Shannon McCartney-Wall** – *Little Women* Louise May Alcott
- ❖ **Megan O'Toole** – *Wuthering Heights* Emily Brontë
- ❖ **Sinead Hegarty** – *The Waves* Virginia Woolf
- ❖ **Zainab Dar** – *The Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini



Year 7			
Term	Text	Assessment	Second teacher
1	A Christmas Carol	Baseline –Reading comprehension task and a Targeted Piece of Work	Raven's Gate Literacy Creative poetry writing
2	Macbeth	Folder Work – Symbolism of Fire ACC Extract Analysis.	
3A	Myths and Legends	EOY - Macbeth – creative writing assessment with quote and picture prompt. (Lang AOS/AO6)	
3B	Detective Unit	Building students' knowledge of SpaG, along with their analytical skills. Learning to deduce and infer.	

Y7 Assessment dates:

GLA: w/c 9th September

EOY GL: w/c 30th June

Year 8			
Term	Text	Assessment	Second teacher
1A	Rebel Voices	Folder Work – 2 Targeted Pieces of Work	Noughts and Crosses Literacy Debate writing Writing to explain/argue/persuade
1B/2A	Animal Farm	Folder work – Poetry Analysis and AF Extract Analysis	
2b/3A	Blood Brothers	EOY - Blood Brothers: Persuasive/explain writing task Lang. Paper 2 Q.5 style. A letter to an MP concerning social issues in the play. (Lang AOS/AO6)	
3B	'Survival' Non-Fiction Module	Informal debate on the cutting of the rope in Touching the Void	

Y8 Assessment dates

GLA: w/c 9th September

EOY GL: w/c 30th June

Year 9			
Term	Text	Assessment	Second teacher
1A	The Woman in Black and the Gothic – study of novel with Gothic Extracts.	Folder Work – 2 Targeted Pieces of Work	The Gilded Ones Literacy Argue /persuade /advise writing Diversity Extracts
2A/2B	Much Ado About Nothing Romeo and Juliet	Folder Work – Gothic Extract Analysis and Frankenstein/Sign of Four Extract Analysis	
3A	Poetry	EOY -Much Ado About Nothing/Romeo and Juliet: Creative writing task. Lang. Paper 1 Q.5 (Lang AOS/AO6). Quote and picture prompt.	
3B	Dystopian Unit	Building students' cultural capital using dystopian extracts – mix of fiction and non-fiction texts and extracts.	

Y9 Assessment dates

GLA: w/c 9th September

EOY GL: w/c 30th June

Together towards our Lord through learning, love and faith