



Formal Curriculum - Priesthorpe - English

Supporting the development of literacy and communication is recognised as a collective responsibility across all curriculum areas at Priesthorpe. Literacy and communication are taught on a personalised basis through 1:1 and small group intervention as well as through structured whole-class teaching. At KS3, pupils have 10 timetabled English lessons per fortnight, while KS4 students have 9 timetabled lessons (to allow for options choices). Partnership English lessons broadly follow the mainstream curriculum; however, this is highly differentiated in line with the needs of the class and is supplemented with additional 'skills lessons' where necessary. Within skills lessons, the class is divided into groups and specific interventions take place with a focus on phonics, comprehension, spelling, technical accuracy and the development of vocabulary. We use a variety of appropriate packages including Read, Write Inc. and Lexia Power Up to support pupils' progress in reading.

We principally adhere to the mainstream curriculum. Long-term plans are thematic in nature which allows staff to select texts appropriate to the profile of the class. Students have the opportunity to study prose, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction. Importance is placed on selecting high-quality texts to develop knowledge, cultural capital and a lifelong love of literature. We endeavor to develop confident writers, both in creative and transactional contexts. The teaching of writing is as personalised as possible. For some students, this involves using colourful semantics to construct sentences and phonics to support with spelling, whilst for others, learning may centre on using an extensive vocabulary, language techniques and a range of punctuation. Pupils are encouraged to adapt their writing for different purposes and audiences. We aim to develop an enjoyment of writing and support students to cultivate their own voice to express their attitudes and opinions.

Speaking and listening is an important part of the curriculum. Students' skills are developed in discussion, presentation and role-play. Speech and language interventions are part of our bespoke curriculum and a number of students are supported by The Talking House and the NHS Speech and Language service.

Pupils work towards Entry Level Certificates and GCSEs as they advance to KS4. All staff share the firm belief that literacy is essential in the development of independence. Students take part in work experience and life skills trips into the community, which further reinforce the skills they learn in a classroom-based setting.