

TLS English Vision

In the English department we aim to shape a curriculum which will engage and stimulate and prove to be enjoyable and challenging. The expectations that we uphold in terms of what we ask for in our students will reflect the expectations that they also have a right to in terms of what we offer.

Our vision is what the English curriculum is built upon and that consists of expression and empathy, expectations and enlightenment, encouragement and enjoyment.

The vision is to equip students with a desire to express their views; develop working relationships between students and teachers which share high expectations; to feel valued and to be excited about life and actively encouraged to pursue their ambitions beyond the school environment.

We recognise the role of literacy as being instrumental in students achieving their very best at The Lakes School and the English department take an active role in leading literacy across the school to enable all students to access the full benefits of our ambitious curriculum.

We believe in delivering an accessible English curriculum that engages students by breaking down the learning and providing clear direction in structured steps. Flexibility and freedom for staff and students within this framework ensures that learning is personalised, enjoyable and progressive.

*What is the **impact** on the individual?*

Through exposure to a range of texts spanning forms, time, cultural and social divides, students can empathise, relate and begin to understand the complex nature of human interaction, personal development and the vast diversity in cultures.

The ability to build resilience and work independently are all built into the new programme of study at Key Stage 3 and this encourages success across the curriculum. There are also clear links between the skills acquired and developed in English (analysis, accurate written expression, listening skills) which are necessary for success in other areas such as Geography, History, Music, Science, Drama etc). Students are reminded of the need to utilise and refine their English skills in order to achieve highly in other subjects.

*What is the **impact** on reading?*

Reading skills are developed in a nurturing way so that students can move from closely supported analysis in Year 7 to more directed approaches in Year 8 to more independent approaches in Year 9 which include greater levels of push and challenge for the more able. Texts are chosen by the teacher which are appropriate for the class and which the teacher is passionate about. In this way, students are actively encouraged to read for pleasure and to foster a love of reading which will endure for life.

Students are able to identify how writers use language, structure and form to write for a specific purpose and audience. They can recognise the various methods writers employ to create specific effects, elicit responses and provoke powerful emotions in the reader or audience. The ability to use a range of reading skills and to match them to task / question independently enables all students to decode for meaning and offer detailed and developed responses which answer the question being asked and which fully satisfy the requirements of the question.

*What is the **impact** on writing?*

Writing for purpose, audience and form spanning a wide range provides opportunities for students to engage with real life and purposeful writing through the transactional options as well as offering choice and personal input over a litany of imaginative options. In this way, expression and understanding are brought together which builds self-esteem, confidence and begins to encourage students to identify with ambitions, dreams and aspirations for the future.

Students understand and learn that writing to a high standard requires careful thought and consideration; planning, re-drafting, editing and proofreading are all vital steps in the process of crafting writing for impact. These form the backbone of all writing tasks in English lessons.

*What is the **impact** on speaking & listening?*

The power of firmly directed and purposeful student talk is an important outcome for all students in English lessons. Expressing opinions, values, beliefs and views in a considered and thoughtful way supports the written word as well as practising verbal exchange with others. The ability to listen to others and respond appropriately is a valuable skill which serves to highlight the importance of empathy, understanding, compassion and awareness.

Further information about the importance of Literacy and the crucial role it plays in our ethos as a school and our developing curriculum can be found in The Lakes School Literacy Policy.

The Lakes School English department enjoys and appreciates continuing support and development in raising standards and achievement from the following external agencies:

