

British Values in English

Democracy

In Year 8 we run a scheme of work on debating where pupils are allowed to vote in a democratic manner that determines the outcome of the debate. We also explore political issues regarding power and democracy when pupils study 'The Tempest.' Similar issues are also examined in Year 7 through our study of 'Macbeth' where we explore how absolute power can corrupt absolutely. We also cover the theme of democracy when teaching the GCSE text 'An Inspector Calls'. Additionally, we also explore this topic when studying GCSE Conflict poetry and how clashes between power structures can lead to war.

The Rule of Law

During our study of 'Stone Cold' we examine the importance of the rule of law through our exploration of how law governs behaviour and moral values. We also examine the importance of rules and regulations during our study of 'The Hunger Games,' as the world presented is based on a dystopian future where rules have been obliterated and re-written. Pupils are assessed on their ability to write a persuasive letter to a capitalist leader where they ask the recipient to examine how fair the rules of Panem are in 'The Hunger Games'. We also look at laws and equality when reading 'Of Mice and Men' in Year 9.

Individual Liberty

Students are actively encouraged to make independent choices in English especially during our speaking and listening tasks in both KS3 and KS4. Pupils are encouraged to have a voice and to always look at each side of a discussion so that they can create balanced arguments. Students are free to select challenging topics for their individual presentations at GCSE and also in year 8 we encourage students to select thought-provoking topics for their group debate tasks. Our Literacy Leader programme in year 9 involves older pupils planning, preparing and teaching year 7 pupils an English lesson in the summer term.

Mutual Respect

Respect is a core value in English - pupils are encouraged to listen respectfully to the viewpoints of others during our regular class discussions. Our behaviour policy is supported by departmental detentions for pupils who do not follow the correct codes of conduct in class. This is also key during KS4 class discussions and debates. We constantly encourage peer-assessment and peer-teaching within the department. Pupils require the ability to show mutual respect for each other for this to work and be an effective task.

Tolerance of Other Faiths and Beliefs

During the Year 8 debates we explore a wide range of topics and pupils are asked to research issues such as racism, prejudice and homophobia. We trace the impact of religion and morality on society in all Shakespearian units, as pupils are encouraged to explore the ever-changing nature of religious influences in society. When undertaking our study of 'Jekyll and Hyde', the contention between science and faith is explored in detail too.