

## English

### ***'Success is where preparation and opportunity meet' – Bobby Unser***

As a core subject, we help students understand the importance English plays in overall achievement across a range of subjects. Students are taught in small groups according to ability. They will be expected to use skills such as inference, deduction, interpretation and an increasing range of vocabulary while understanding how a wide range of texts are structured, crafted and presented.

St. John's students have demonstrated a consistent ability to achieve in line with the many challenges of the new curriculum. English as an academic subject has undergone a high degree of change, starting with the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum (2013), followed by the first assessment of more demanding GCSEs in the summer of 2017.

In view of this, the Department is proud of the ways in which it has adapted to these changes; core assessment skills through Years 7-9, reading and writing reflect the added challenge and breadth of the curriculum that is required. Students are expected to work more with unseen texts and have studied literary texts covering the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. They must also focus in greater depth on writers' methods of presenting texts using language and structure as well as a growing depth of vocabulary which is necessary to access the more academic rigour of many texts. We have high expectations for students of all abilities and Year groups, both in and out of the classroom, using weekly homework tasks to extend and consolidate students' learning.

At KS4, all students follow the AQA GCSE specification (2015) in English Language (8700) and English Literature (8702). The new skills required to achieve and progress in Language and Literature work collaboratively; the skills necessary to succeed in Language are also essential to succeed in Literature (and vice versa).

Extra-curricular opportunities to support the study of English include theatre trips as well as watching live-streamed productions.