

English

At Thames Valley School, the English curriculum is designed with a clear purpose, ensuring that every pupil has a functional, or higher, level of literacy to support their journey to independence and success in adulthood. Our Primary and Secondary departments work closely to ensure progression and development of skills across the school are clearly mapped, building on prior knowledge. We believe that a strong foundation in English is essential for personal and professional growth and, through fostering a love for language and literature, we empower our pupils with the skills they need to navigate the complexities of the world around them.

Our approach to the teaching of English is pupil centred and we focus on creating an engaging and inclusive learning environment that sparks curiosity, encourages, and develops critical thinking. To support all pupils in accessing these opportunities, we employ innovative methods, incorporating technology, group activities, and interactive discussions and debates to make the learning experience enriching and enjoyable.

In English lessons, pupils will learn how to communicate their thoughts and ideas independently and confidently, write for different purposes and audiences, explore a wide variety of literature, from classic works to contemporary pieces. Our pupils experience a diverse range of genres, cultures, and perspectives. Through this exploration, we broaden their horizons and deepen their understanding of the purpose of communication.

English Language

We place emphasis on how we are teaching the four basic skills of the English Language: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We teach our pupils how to acquire reading comprehension skills as well as how to write and communicate their ideas fluently and imaginatively. Our aim is to create independent and thoughtful learners who can understand other peoples' opinions and viewpoints, and, at the same time can communicate their ideas effectively to a range of audiences.

English Literature

To help our pupils develop their understanding of other cultures, awareness of 'difference' and to develop tolerance and sympathy, we teach our pupils about the different historical and social context of various pieces of literature including short stories, novels, poems, and plays. Through our core texts, pupils are guided through the different perceptions of the world around them, enabling them to develop their critical understanding of literary texts.

Qualifications

At the end of Year 11, when our pupils leave Thames Valley School, they will have been supported to engage in and achieve recognised qualifications. We offer a

range of qualifications that are tailored to the needs of the individual pupil and discussed with parents and carers. The qualifications include:

- English Entry Level
- English Functional Skills Level 1
- English Functional Skills Level 2
- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE