



Our Motto is "The Pursuit of Excellence"

Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College (in the nearby village of Stewartby) are operated by Wootton Academy Trust [WAT]. The two institutions are 3 miles apart and linked by a shuttle bus. WAT is highly ambitious and its vision is to provide outstanding education in all of its component parts.

Wootton Upper School was inspected in November 2017 and received a very positive report. The school was judged to be good in all areas. Wootton Upper School, with 900 students across Years 9 - 11, achieves excellent results across the core subjects in both progress and attainment measures.

Kimberley College 16-19 STEM College opened in September 2013 and has 650 students. The College was inspected in January 2017 and judged good in most areas and outstanding in personal development and well-being. For the last two years the College has been in the Sunday Times list of the top 20 Sixth Form Colleges in the UK based on the proportion of students getting 2As and 1B or better in facilitating subjects.

The English Department

Our department aims to nurture each individual student building their skills and confidence so that they grow into critical readers and effective communicators, developing the analytical skills needed to succeed at GCSE, A-Level and beyond.

English is a high-profile subject at Wootton Academy Trust, and our team delights in the variety our subject offers and the opportunities it affords to explore ideas, emotions and language in a creative context. We are a highly motivated and collaborative team of eleven, which includes seven full-time and four part-time members of staff. We are also fortunate to mentor trainees within the department and are proud that many permanent members of staff applied for their positions following a successful training placement. Staff and trainees who have joined our team in recent years comment on what an incredibly collaborative, well organised and positive working environment we have established.

We pride ourselves on having high aspirations for all and aim to provide quality teaching that enables pupils to achieve their potential. The department has an excellent track record at GCSE level, and students regularly make progress significantly above national average. In 2020, core English 9-4 attainment was 86%, and 21% of pupils achieved grades 9-7. In 2021 core English 9-4 attainment was 89% and 30% achieved 9-7. These Centre Assessed grades follow three years of outstanding results and excellent progress measures: Progress 8 for English is very strong and Pupil Premium children make progress significantly above national. We aim to keep improving on these outstanding results, and always welcome new ideas and approaches to enhance pupils' achievement at all levels.

A-level English is also popular within the Trust, and we currently offer English Literature, and English Language and Literature. A-level English subjects are taught exclusively at Kimberley College but many English teaching staff have the opportunity to share in this teaching and develop their expertise at this level.

We enjoy positive relationships with our pupils who are responsive and enthusiastic in their learning within the department. When our pupils arrive in Wootton in Year 9, we work to encourage exploration of English as a valuable subject in its own right, and also to prepare them for the transition to GCSE study and beyond. The department's dedication and commitment to ensuring outstanding outcomes for all pupils was recognised in Wootton Upper School's Ofsted report.

We are a highly respected department within the Trust and members make a great contribution to whole school life. We have recently led good practice training sessions for the whole Trust and we run extra-curricular activities in the form of theatre trips, public speaking and debating competitions, whilst also providing individual support to pupils who need extra help to achieve their potential.

For further information on the English department please contact: Ben Coleman, **Head of English** [bcoleman@wootton.beds.sch.uk].