Who teaches English:

Christine Thomas

Acting Curriculum Leader for English English Consultant

Sarah Jones-Lee

Assistant Curriculum Leader

Karen Foreman

Literacy co-ordinator / English teacher

Jane Minniss

Lauren Walton English teachers

Cath Mitchell

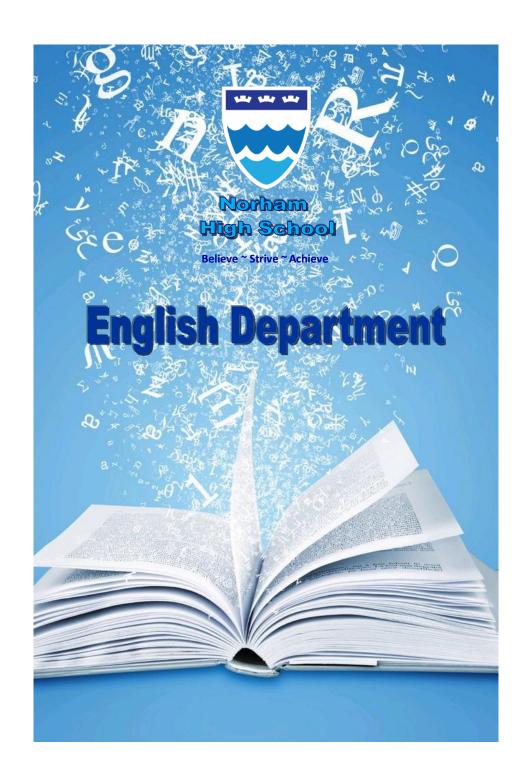
Learning Manager

Executive Headteacher

Mr David Baldwin

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Values

In the English department...

We BELIEVE that the study of English is essential to pupils' development as it helps young people learn to make words work powerfully for them in their own writing and to decode the messages at play in the writing of others. Through the teaching of English, we STRIVE to instil in pupils a confidence in using and interpreting words which will help them ACHIEVE their potential at school and throughout their lives.

Curriculum

The department has successfully taught Cambridge iGCSE English Language for several years. In 2015-16, Year 11 will sit this qualification (extended level) as well as AQA Certificate in English Literature.

Year 10 are following the new AQA GCSEs in English Language and Literature. Subsequent year groups will also sit these qualifications.

KS3

At Key Stage 3 we offer a rich and varied curriculum which provides a good foundation for the demands of Key Stage 4.

All pupils at KS3 receive 3 English lessons a week. In addition to this, selected groups receive an additional weekly Literacy lesson to support them in the development of their confidence in using key, technical aspects of the language.

In Years 7 and 8, one English lesson per fortnight is given over to Reading for Pleasure. During these lessons, pupils are grouped according to their reading ages and share and respond collectively to a range of engaging fiction texts carefully selected both to promote their enjoyment of reading and to be appropriately challenging.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn."

Extra Curricular

The range of extra-curricular opportunities continues to grow in English.

Competitions: in conjunction with the Performing Arts department, current Y10 pupils will soon be invited to take part in the national 'Poetry by Heart' competition which will encourage pupils to engage with a range of the very best poetry written in English and to experience the pleasure associated with its performance.

Visits: the department is keen that every pupil should have the opportunity to enjoy live theatre performances which will enhance their appreciation of the texts they study in class. In the academic year 2014-15, Y10 students will be invited to attend a performance of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' — one of their English Literature coursework texts - at The Theatre Royal in Newcastle.

Reading Groups: Steve Forster, the LRC Manager, runs the very popular Y10 Reading Group in which pupils select and share a challenging range of Young Adult fiction.

Where do we teach?

The English department is a self contained suite of 6 classrooms. Each member of staff has their own teaching room and staff take great pride in their areas. The department also has a staff workroom / intervention room and a Head of Department office.

