



IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Information Pack



Head Teacher's Welcome

Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy is a popular, over-subscribed academy for 11-16 pupils in Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees. There are approximately 1175 pupils on roll with a pupil admission number of 237 in each year group.

I truly believe that education should encompass the teaching and learning of specific skills, as well as imparting knowledge. Although exam qualifications are of vital importance to our young people, equipping them with critical life and social skills, as well as enrichment experiences, is also essential. We have a responsibility to educate the whole child: healthy mind, healthy body, and healthy spirit. Ian Ramsey CE Academy's vision is:

'Together to learn, to grow, to serve.'

This is embodied in the words:

'Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.'

- (1 Peter 4:10)

Our challenge lies in creating opportunity, realising potential, and achieving excellence for all our young people, ensuring that they feel education is a shared experience. Every learner is considered as an individual and this principle is at the heart of all that we do. There are no limits for any pupil and the academy strives hard to remove any potential barriers to success.

I am a passionate believer in the comprehensive education system. Every pupil, regardless of background or starting point, should have the same entitlement to a high-quality education and the opportunity to reach their full potential. Supporting real, personalised learning, inspiring and encouraging a life-long thirst for knowledge and supporting sustained success in the years ahead are key elements. I want to ensure all members of Ian Ramsey CE Academy become committed, curious, and happy learners so that they grow into flexible, independent thinkers with strong self-esteem and effective communication skills.

We warmly invite you to meet our dedicated staff and pupils, as well as visit our fantastic facilities.

Kind regards,



**Brian Janes
Head Teacher**

Ian Ramsey CE Academy, Part of Northern Lights Learning Trust

Ian Ramsey CE Academy is part of The Northern Lights Learning Trust which consists of two over-subscribed 11-16 Church of England academies: Ian Ramsey CE Academy in Stockton-on-Tees and Venerable Bede CE Academy in Sunderland and several primary schools across Sunderland, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees.

At Ian Ramsey CE Academy, we aim to:

- **Forge a supportive and challenging family of schools.**
- **Provide excellent education within a strong Christian community.**
- **Resource our students for wise and generous living.**

As a Church of England Academy in a mixed multi-academy trust, we place EACH child at the centre of our vision and all our decision making as a child of God.

Ethos of Ian Ramsey CE Academy

Our mission together is to bring a first-class education and a breadth of opportunity to all our pupils considering the Christian Gospel. We also hope that these opportunities benefit the wider community, whether locally, nationally, or internationally.

At the heart of everything is inclusion. We are committed to being inclusive and serve equally those, who are of the Christian faith, those of other faiths and those with no faith. We seek to give opportunities that educate, encourage participation, and increase the aspirations of our young people, but also seek the same opportunities for all our staff, regardless of their role within the trust. Everyone is valued for the role they play, and we see opportunities for professional development as pivotal to this vision. Working with young people is a vocation and we are here to serve our community. Being true to our Christian values and keeping the well-being of our pupils at the heart of all decision-making are the keys to success.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive, neighbourhood school and hope to inspire, in our pupils, a love of learning that will stay with them long after they reach the school leaving age. We believe in encouraging each pupil to have high self-esteem and to realise that, by believing in themselves and through hard work, they can reach their true potential as children of God. We also believe firmly in Pupil Voice; by listening to our young people, we can improve their education and the opportunities that we can offer.

We take a strong stance against bullying and passionately believe that every child has the right to feel safe and nurtured whilst in our care. It is important that we model tolerance at every opportunity so that our young people leave us at 16 with the skills and moral purpose to make a difference to their communities.

Our Christian and British values underpin all our actions and I encourage you to visit our website to see some excellent examples of how we live these values every day.

Ian Ramsey CE Academy's English Department

The English Department at Ian Ramsey CE Academy is a passionate team with a wealth of experience. Comprised of 12 members of staff, including a HLTA, the department has a wealth of strengths within the staff. The team is led by the Director of English, supported by two TLR holders. Our priority is a consistency in approach that supports the needs of all pupils. As practitioners, we are keen to develop professionally, seeking new teaching ideas, training, and development opportunities. The team includes a variety of staff, from SLT to ECTs. It is a department who strive to support each other and build a curriculum that is robust and benefits all pupils.

All staff contribute towards curriculum development within the department, as well as take an active part in the day to day running of the subject. While the Director of English has overall leadership for all key stages, there are two seconds who lead on specific aspects of the curriculum. Teamwork and developing pedagogy within the classroom are at the heart of all we do and ensures that the English department continually strive to achieve the best for all.

English Curriculum

English forms part of the core curriculum for all pupils. Encompassing both English Language and English Literature in its syllabus, it the cornerstone of the school curriculum. As a curriculum area we aim to embed a love of learning for all pupils, and to cherish pupils' passions for the subject. All pupils are challenged and standards are exceptionally high. We foster a culture of high expectations and success in all regards, whilst being a main contributor to the school community and beyond. Learning lies at the very heart of our department and we work hard to ensure that pupils are well motivated in lessons and are achieving to the best of their ability. We encourage pupils to explore the subject and its wider impact within school and the further community; and embed a love of learning for all pupils.

The English curriculum is designed to spark a love of both English Language and English Literature in all pupils at all stages. Pupils are encouraged to take risks, to push their knowledge and understanding and to link their learning to the world outside of school. Every opportunity is taken to link skills, themes and learning to current issues affecting pupils and the wider cultural context.

Our spiral curriculum means key skills and concepts are introduced in Year 7 and revisited and built upon in subsequent years. Although we have ensured the curriculum meet the requirements of the National Curriculum, we also cover topics that are current to the lives and experiences of our pupils. Along with knowledge, opportunities to develop reading skills, questioning skills and critical thinking are fully embedded within lessons. All pupils at all stages are familiar with reciprocal reading strategies, with key stages built into all lessons.

Year 7 and 8 pupils have a fortnightly 'Reading for Pleasure' lesson in one of their timetabled English lessons. The lessons focus on the enjoyment of reading and utilise the reciprocal reading strategies which have been embedded in all subject areas across the academy.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
The Ruby in the Smoke Much Ado About Nothing Poetry Our Day Out Transactional Writing Descriptive Writing Narrative Writing	The Book Thief The Taming of the Shrew War poetry Blood Brothers Transactional Writing Descriptive Writing Narrative Writing	To Kill a Mockingbird The Merchant of Venice Poetry from Other Cultures The Crucible Non-fiction Writing Descriptive Writing Narrative Writing

The GCSE English Language and Literature courses follow the AQA specifications. In English Language we delve into the impact of writer’s craft; the impact of language use; the impact of structural choices; writer’s intent; and the impact of writer’s choice. We also seek to support pupils’ crafting of writing and their understanding of how to write for purpose and impact. There is also a unit focusing on Spoken Language which underpins writing for purpose whilst also addressing the NEA section of the AQA syllabus. For English Literature, the focus is on understanding writer’s intent; judicious analysis of writer’s choices; and the impact they have on the reader. Pupils are taught skills and structures which they use to support their analysis and the creation of their own work to ensure every pupil is equipped with the skills necessary to succeed.

Year 10	Year 11
The 19 th Century novel: ‘A Christmas Carol’ English Language Paper 1 Shakespeare: ‘Macbeth’ or ‘Romeo and Juliet’ 20 th Century text: ‘An Inspector Calls’	English Language Paper 2 Spoken Language Study AQA Poetry Anthology: Power and Conflict Unseen poetry

Pupils are assessed every half term. Year 7-9 classes use the Life Without Levels system, while GCSE pupils are assessed using GCSE style questions and mark schemes. Assessments inform future planning for all staff to ensure that teaching supports the needs of all pupils.

Pupils are currently grouped by ability within Year 7-9, with 9 groups in each year group equally distributed across three bands. Year 7 and 8 also have a Nurture Group for our most vulnerable pupils who are taught English by our SENDCO, who is an English specialist. At GCSE, pupils are taught in groups according to targeted needs and loosely set on target grades.

Enrichment in English

English, working alongside the LRC has provided many opportunities for pupils to enjoy. Pupils have enjoyed activities including author and theatre visits; creative writing trips; poetry performances from world renowned poets including many from the GCSE poetry anthology. Staff are encouraged to support and deliver extra-curricular activities wherever possible with numerous theatre trips to engage and support pupils within and beyond our curriculum.

Timetable allocation

The timetable is based on a two-week schedule. Year 7-9 classes have seven hours a fortnight, and GCSE classes have eight hours a fortnight. Although both specifications are covered in full, pupils are not given designated English Language or English Literature lessons on their timetable. The curriculum coverage is set within the department.

Teaching rooms

The English Team is based primarily in seven classrooms on one corridor on the second floor of the building. There is an English workroom on the corridor. Each classroom has been recently decorated, and all have Plasma screens and whiteboards to support delivery of lessons. The Department is supported by the LRC (Learning Resource Centre) and we are lucky to have the support of a trained school librarian who is keen to assist both staff and pupils in any way possible. Every corridor in the school has a ‘Little Library’ to support the whole school Reading Strategy.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to the English department at Ian Ramsey CE Academy.

Mrs A. Chapman-Jones
Director of English

The Application Process

In addition to completing an application form, you are requested to submit a statement in support of your application. Applicants must complete all sections of the application form in full. We do not accept CVs.

In your supporting statement, which should not exceed 2 sides of A4, please explain clearly how you meet the requirements of the person specification.

Please submit your application and supporting statement to Mrs Katy Blakemore, HR Officer, via the recruitment email recruitment@ianramsey.org.uk

Deadline for applications: 9am, Monday 13th March 2023

References will be taken up soon after shortlisting and prior to interview using the contact details you supply on your application form.

Further information and visits to the school

Further information about Ian Ramsey CE Academy can be found on the school website at www.ianramsey.org.uk

In addition, candidates are encouraged to take an informal opportunity to visit the academy prior to applying. If you have any queries about this exciting opportunity, please contact Mrs Katy Blakemore.