

## **LEARNING AREA DESCRIPTION**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Communications Learning Area requires a highly skilled, resourceful and enthusiastic teacher who wishes to join a successful team. The Learning Area consists of 9 English and 4 MFL staff and is housed in a suite of rooms on the first floor of the new school building. All teaching rooms are equipped with Clevertouch interactive screens and both subject areas have a wide range of paper and online resources which are used to engage students and help them progress.

The Learning Area has enjoyed a great deal of success over the past few years, with grades at GCSE consistently in line with or better than the school and national averages.

Students are currently taught in mixed ability groups across all ages in English, where we have a range of schemes of work in line with the national framework and are always seeking to integrate more challenging and varied resources. Assessment is through a written piece every half term, which is kept in a portfolio of achievement from year to year across KS3, as well as ongoing class and homework. We follow the Eduqas specification, which enables a varied choice of poetry, prose and drama texts to be studied and students start building their work and skills towards this from the end of Y9. English Literature is a popular subject in KS5, where AQA syllabus A is followed.

In MFL, students are taught French or Spanish, mixed ability in Y7 and 8 with sets in Y9 and students opting for the subject as an option at GCSE. A wide range of textbook and interactive resources are used to tailor teaching and promote student engagement. Assessments are carried out at the end of each unit of work. We follow the AQA French and Spanish specifications for GCSE and some students go on to study A level languages, taught in partnership with other schools in our area.

As a Learning Area, we seek to inspire students with a love for learning and equip them with the skills needed to communicate effectively in the modern world.

In order to achieve this even more effectively, some of the areas we are focusing on improving in the next year are:

- The continued improvement of GCSE grades as the grading system changes, especially through equipping students to be more independent learners in both subjects
- The continuing development of staff as specifications change and grading changes
- The promotion and development of higher level reading skills in higher ability students through the use of reading groups (English)
- Greater student engagement with and responsibility for reading independently, initially through the use of the ReadingPro software from Scholastic (English)
- Improving the engagement of middle ability boys in languages (MFL)