



***ENGLISH***  
***INTENT STATEMENT***

### *Gunnersbury's Catholic School Mission Statement*

***"Gunnersbury Catholic School strives to educate all its pupils within an environment where the Catholic traditions of learning, truth, justice, respect and community are promoted."***

#### ***'Ad Altiora' - 'To Higher Things.'***

- Every Catholic school has a mission statement that encapsulates its distinctive job or core purpose.
- The mission statement **puts faith at the heart of all we do at school** and incorporates our school motto.
- It speaks of inclusivity and respect, that we understand as important Gospel values.
- It reminds us that Christ is at that centre of all that we do and by extension, as his creations we are all obligated to treat every member of our community with respect and love.
- It speaks of our aspirations for all in our community and our will to do all we can to make these a reality

### **Welcome to the English Department!**

#### **Intent:**

- Our curriculum intent is to provide an English course of study at each key stage which is not only **broad and balanced**, but **ambitious and challenging** for all learners, no matter their starting point or ability.
- Through the study of English Language and Literature, students gain an appreciation for the written and spoken word and its integral part in our current society, as well as world history. Pupils gain the skills they need to engage with texts **analytically and critically**, as well as **rich knowledge** of historical, political, social and philosophical contexts.
- As teachers of English, we intend to demonstrate, through our teaching and enthusiasm for the subject, the importance of English for **self-expression, communication, and imagination**.
- Through a creative and critical engagement with a range of challenging literary forms and genres, Gunnersbury boys will develop the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the world in a **confident, thoughtful, and eloquent manner**.
- We aim to foster a love and appreciation of the English language and reading for **enjoyment's sake**, with the boys developing an **empathetic and open mind-set** as they read and discover new writers, text types and ideas. We lead by example in fostering dialogue about reading and its benefits.
- Our curriculum intent is set within a context of a **Catholic vision** for education which is reflected in our Mission Statement: "Gunnersbury Catholic School strives to educate all its pupils within an environment where the Catholic traditions of **learning, truth, justice, respect and community** are promoted.
- It encourages all to engage in as broad an interpretation of education as is possible, and one which is in keeping with the motto '**Ad Altiora**' - 'To Higher Things.'"

#### **Implementation:**

- We have carefully planned and sequenced our curriculum to allow for the building and development of skills in the subject in each key stage. The skills taught in each stage build on the expectations of where the students should be from the previous stage.
- We attach equal importance to developing students' skills in reading, writing and spoken language and our schemes of work ensure that time is allocated for the deep learning of new concepts alongside retrieval and recall of past skills.
- We study a range breadth of different texts, time periods and genres according to National Curriculum requirements. Writing workshop lessons allow for the honing of writing skills in different forms, for different purposes and audiences.
- As a department we are influenced by updates in English pedagogy, utilising new publications and embedding new ideas for the teaching of reading and writing. We collaborate creatively as a department to create SOW and resources that are engaging and consistent for all learners.
- Teachers support students in becoming active and inquisitive learners, encouraging them to reflect on the process of learning.
- The English department regularly assess using a range of formative strategies; summative assessment is used to inform and plan lessons to ensure progress. Students receive feedback regularly through 'yellow sheet' TRIO tasks and Whole Class Feedback.
- Outside of the classroom, pupils' experiences are complemented by a wide programme of extra-curricular activities, including theatre trips, visiting speakers and workshops, Young Reporter cub and involvement in Debating and the Jack Petchey Award.

### **Impact:**

- The impact our curriculum across the school is far reaching. We ensure that each pupil is prepared and ready to access the next stage of their education, be that an individual key stage, or on to sixth form or university.
- By the time pupils leave Gunnersbury they will have read a variety of different texts, both fiction and non-fiction. They will also be fluent readers and confident writers and should be able to clearly express their opinion on a range of topics through the linguistic and structural skills they have learnt and developed in English lessons.
- GCSE learners, in particular, will become critical thinkers who are able to analyse language and the structure of writing in detail. A-Level students will have critically engaged with a wide range of canonical and diverse Literature from different eras in History. They leave Gunnersbury with the skill of formal academic essay writing, and the ability to express themselves in a fluent and sophisticated way, equipping them well for further study at university.
- Each year we see the impact of our English curriculum as our pupils leave to go to college, to participate in apprenticeships, or join University courses, ultimately entering the world of work with the necessary communication and literacy skills to survive and thrive in an increasingly competitive and unpredictable world.