



Cardinal
Newman
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

English Department

A hearty welcome to our effervescent English department, here at Cardinal Newman Catholic School.

Through the study of English our students will be encouraged and supported to be articulate communicators, avid readers and ambitious writers.

We facilitate and foster a culture of reading across the school but consider the English classrooms and the library to be at the core. We provide ample opportunity for our students to explore a diverse range and form of texts from a variety of cultures.

There is something in English for each and every student! Whether that be a dramatic performance of the Witches spell-casting around the cauldron in *Macbeth*; a quiet and reflective space to be able to express themselves in creative tasks; or through discussing and debating the motives of inspirational writers.

A student of English at Cardinal Newman will be challenged to question the world they live in through their investigation of literature whilst also learning the skills to express themselves in all walks of life. The study of English equips our students, yes, to be able to read knowledgeably and to write accurately but most importantly to be curious, to connect and to communicate confidently.

Homework

Educake is an excellent tool that supports students' independent learning through interactive quizzes with instant feedback. Regular use builds confidence, strengthens key skills, and encourages students to reflect on their progress, learn from mistakes, and grow.



Key Stage 3

We view KS3 as an opportunity to foster critical thinkers, effective speakers and accurate writers. We work towards building a toolkit of knowledge and skills that the students can draw on looking at both contemporary and classic novels, plays and poetry alongside non-fiction reading and writing.

The library plays an important role in our work with KS3, and all classes have a fortnightly library lesson to engage with their reading. Additionally, our students have access to a new online platform – Sparx Reader – which provides adaptive texts tailored to your child's reading ability, built-in comprehension questions to develop careful and accurate reading and vocabulary support and accessibility tools to aid understanding.

GCSE English

We follow the AQA English Language and AQA English Literature specifications. All students will be prepared for both examinations. We are enormously proud of our KS4 students and have an excellent record of high achievement.

English Language: 21.1% 7-9, 60.4% 5-9, 78.9% 4-9.

English Literature: 17% 7-9, 60.6% 5-9, 79.4% 4-9.

Meet the team

and their favourite books!

Head of Department: Erika Fealy - North and South Elizabeth Gaskell

Assistant Headteacher: Avril Dowdeswell – The Secret History by Donna Tartt

Tony Smailes – Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe

Julia Grant - The Little Red Chairs Edna O'Brien

Julie Pratten – A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini

Lisa Nicholls – Lord of the Rings J. R. R. Tolkien

Morenike Awoloto – Americanah Chimamanda Adichie

Sara Ali – To Kill a Mocking Bird Harper

Megan O'Toole – Still Life Sarah Winman

Zainab Dar – The Kite Runner Khaled Hosseini

Amy Price - Thirteen Steve Cavanagh

Amina Shah – The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald



KS3 Programme of Study 2025-2026

Year 7			
Term	Text	Assessment	Second teacher
1	A Christmas Carol	Baseline –Reading comprehension task and two Targeted Pieces of Work	Raven's Gate Literacy Creative poetry writing
2	Macbeth	Folder Work – Creative Writing	
3A	Myths and Legends	Building students' cultural capital by connecting them to the key stories, values, and language of their own culture and others.	
3B	Detective Unit	Building students' knowledge of SpaG, along with their analytical skills. Learning to deduce and infer.	

Year 8			
Term	Text	Assessment	Second teacher
1A	Rebel Voices	Folder Work – 1 Targeted Piece of Work	Noughts and Crosses Literacy Debate writing Writing to explain/argue/persuade
1B/2A	Animal Farm	Folder work – AF Extract Analysis	
2b/3A	Blood Brothers	Folder work – Formal Letter Writing and a Comparative Analysis	
3B	'Survival' Non-Fiction Module	Building students' cultural capital using extracts about different situations and events people have survived.	

Year 9			
Term	Text	Assessment	Second teacher
1A/B	The Woman in Black and the Gothic – study of novel with Gothic Extracts.	Folder Work – 2 Targeted Pieces of Work	The Gilded Ones Literacy Argue /persuade /advise writing Diversity Extracts
2A	Creative Writing Unit	Folder Work – extended piece of writing.	
2B/3A	Much Ado About Nothing Romeo and Juliet	Folder Work – Writing with a viewpoint – Newspaper Article	
3B	Dystopian Unit	Building students' cultural capital using dystopian extracts – mix of fiction and non-fiction extracts.	