**English**

**Welcome!**

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

Our Purpose and Ethos:
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.

Key Stage Three:
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. We now have ‘debate weeks’ for all KS3 students which involves students preparing a debate in a group and ultimately taking part in a live debate on a specific motion based on the text they are studying.

Students who come to the school who were working below national expectations at KS2 may follow a special catch up course which has in the past helped many of our students to be working at national expectations by the end of Year 7.

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.

**Meet the Team:** (and their favourite books!)

* **Curriculum Leader: Neil Garvey***Solar Bones –*Mike McCormack
* **KS3 Co-ordinator: Erika Fealy -** *North and South* Elizabeth Gaskell
* **Gordon Ritchie –** *Jane Eyre* Charlotte Bronte
* **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 Oketunji –** *Americanah* Chimamandah Adichie
* **Sara Ali –** *To Kill a Mocking Bird* Harper Lee
* **Parsa Hussain –** *The Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini
* **Janice Amers –** *Persuasion* Jane Austen
* **Shannon McCartney-Wall –** *Little Women* Louise May Alcott
* **Megan O’Toole –** *Wuthering Heights* Emily Brontë
* **Marriyah Malik –** *Clockwork Prince* Cassandra Clare
* **Sinead Hegarty –** *The Waves* Virginia Woolf
* **Avril Dowdeswell –** *The Secret History* Donna Tartt

 