



St Andrew's
COLLEGE

English Vision

As an English team, we are interested and excited by what success means individually for each learner we work with. We are committed to exploring what has meaning for all our learners.

Some learners come to the college with a clear main focus of achieving educational qualifications, whilst some seek to further explore their own interests and passions or to have the space to gain confidence in education and discover what they are most interested in.



We are proud of our history of learners achieving GCSE and Functional Skills success (often in the face of significant challenges) driven by their aspirations and efforts. We also use and create bespoke education awards through the AQA Award scheme, which recognise and celebrate the constant progress our learners make in their reading, writing and communication skills, as well as their personal development and confidence. Learners have also discovered recognition through the college supporting them to publish their own writing and some students have had their poetry recognised through national awards.

We feel that learners are able to attain in this way through the significant advantage of our setting, where we have the time and space to allow young people to be inquisitive and engaged. We aspire to foster a sense of curiosity and exploration in our learners. We highly value speaking and listening and build learners who feel able to speak out for themselves and communicate effectively with people from all walks of life. This has included learners developing their skills and confidence to the extent that they have conducted interviews with senior hospital leaders and have been able to ask searching questions which were relevant to them and their peers.



We create an atmosphere in which young people feel confident and safe to speak about their interests and ideas and in which they feel valued and acknowledged. We take an empowering and validating approach. The English team are people who enjoy speaking and listening and are keen readers and writers. It is particularly important to us that this is replicated not just in the English team but across the entire college team, with staff from other subjects consistently expressing passion and enthusiasm in these areas. Our cross-curricular approach is embedded and learners accept and recognise that all education staff work together to build an interest and passion for each other's subject areas.



We regularly hold Enrichment events, which build on learners' work in lessons and are sometimes learners' first introduction to encountering English in a different setting, which feels safe, exciting, fun and empowering.

Events have included *Blind Date with a Book* (in which learners are able to choose a mystery book), Halloween ghost story events and *World Book Day*. Students have found this a fun and interesting way to access books and, for a number of our learners, this has inspired them to discover new books that they have come to love.



In sessions such as our *Reading Dog*, staff and young people engage in naturally therapeutic conversation, born from the safe environment and the meaning that books have for young people.

Learners' interest and confidence in reading is also nurtured by our Book Vending Machine, where learners are able to earn coins to choose a book from the machine. Their book journals are prominently displayed and learners enjoy taking responsibility for completing them, building their sense of achievement and progress. This passion and enthusiasm for reading is strengthened by literacy programs that can offer tailored support for learners who may have historically found reading difficult and which offer a quick route to building confidence and security in reading.



We have a love of literature, knowing that it can be freeing to escape to other worlds and we recognise that the right book, at the right time, for the right person can be life changing.

In everything we do, we strive to create a situation in which learners move on from English at St Andrew's College with a sense of achievement, educational outcomes which are right for and important to them, the strength to speak out with their own voice and the confidence to follow their passions and aspirations as they move forward.

