



Rugby School

English in the F Block (Year 9)

English is central to the Lower School curriculum, and all pupils are encouraged to read widely and write well. The emphasis is on studying the best examples from English (and American) literature, but there are many opportunities to analyse the language of the media as well as for original composition.

Given the importance of good communication skills both at GCSE and beyond, pupils are required to discuss issues in formal and informal contexts, and periodically to give a brief talk to the class. Those that thrive at this are encouraged to join the Junior Debating Society. Private reading is monitored throughout term via the Lower School Booklist, and advice is given on how to develop a reading strategy.

At the beginning of the F Block year all pupils share their enthusiasm by contributing to "Good Reads", an anthology of book reviews. All pupils are set an appropriate novel over the holiday, which then forms the basis of the start of next term's work. Likewise, a Shakespeare play is always studied as part of the F Block year, and is tied in with a visit to see the RSC's production at Stratford.

With all pupils being issued with laptops, and with the examination board's requirement for editing and redrafting, there are many chances in English for developing ICT skills. At the beginning of the year a test is taken to determine individual pupils' linguistic strengths and weaknesses. The Department has a specific responsibility for finishing the cmap mind mapping software.