



Key Stage 5: Life in the English & Media Department

An overview of opportunities for Key Stage 5 students studying: English Literature, English Language and Media Studies

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

KS5 students in the English & Media department have a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Students can become subject ambassadors, representing the department at open evenings and engaging with visitors, parents, and younger students. Students also design and create artwork and displays for the department, showcasing their creativity and skills. Additionally, there are opportunities to volunteer as reading mentors for Year 7 students, helping those with the lowest literacy levels, or to assist in KS3 classes as learning support assistants.



Trips & Enrichment Opportunities:

The department offers enriching trips to landmarks like Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, along with various theatre visits to bring classroom learning to life. Students also attend events like the English & Media Centre English Language Conference and participate in online lectures and guest speaker sessions featuring prominent authors and journalists. These experiences deepen students' understanding of English and Media, while also inspiring them with real-world insights.

Competitions:

KS5 students are encouraged to engage in a variety of writing competitions, including the Betty Haigh Shakespeare Association Essay Writing Competition, National Poetry Competitions, and Creative Writing Competitions. Notable recent entrants and finalists include Will Barker and Xantia Clarkson. The increasing number of entries highlights the growing enthusiasm among KS5 students for literary challenges.

Links with Higher Education:

The department has started to establish partnerships with universities such as Edge Hill, Chester, and Liverpool. These collaborations allow students to experience English and Media-based degrees firsthand through organised experience days, providing insight into higher education and potential career paths.



Y12/13 Media Students

Journalist and Author Caroline Cocoran will be presenting in the Library during Period 3 on Monday 6th October.





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Individual Support:

To support the academic success of KS5 students, the department provides personalised feedback, 1:1 meetings for guidance on NEA (Non-Examination Assessment) projects, and targeted mentoring. Specialist KS5 teachers are available for additional subject support, ensuring each student receives tailored guidance and encouragement to achieve their best. We also offer KS5 students pre-exam breakfast revision sessions and Easter revision sessions. The department have also created social media videos to promote and share revision strategies on the department Instagram.



Wider Reading and Academic Challenge:

The department promotes a strong culture of wider reading and academic challenge, offering students curated reading lists that expand their knowledge and intellectual curiosity. KS5 students have access to resources like Massolit (an online resource for academic books and lectures) and the English & Media online magazine. Additionally, Cambridge University's subject-specific reading lists provide a further academic challenge and help students deepen their understanding of key topics. The school library has a dedicated KS5 section, and reading assemblies are regularly held to promote reading for pleasure and academic growth. Through these initiatives, students are encouraged to read widely and engage with a range of texts that challenge and inspire them.



AUTHOR VISIT



[Study Skills & Wider Reading - Neston High School](#)

[CambridgeUniversitiesuggestionsforA-level.pdf](#)

[YR13UsefulSubjectLinksWiderreading.pdf](#)

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