



Westcliff High School for Boys

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Careers across the curriculum

in ENGLISH

Soft Skills Development (these are the skills we are committed to developing in the Careers Department)	
<p>All Years</p>	<p>We develop communication and teamwork by incorporating the following into our lessons: discussion; think, pair and share; self-assessment; peer-assessment including live peer-assessment; jigsaw grouping; presentations both individually and in groups; flipped learning; and performance of texts.</p>
<p>Years 8, 9, Middle School and Sixth Form</p>	<p>Across the school, English develops core skills for time management through a variety of tasks, such as: timed assessments; a Core Homework programme (timed tasks); use of timers in lessons; group tasks; and extra-curricular opportunities which must be balanced with an already rich curricular life.</p> <p>In Middle School, we aim to develop these skills to improve readiness for public examinations, where time management is crucial. In lessons, KS4 pupils can expect to be well-drilled on paper timings, as well as receiving support with subject-specific revision timetables and examination conditioning to improve timing and stamina.</p> <p>Finally, in Sixth Form, students continue to develop a strong foundation in time management, approaching this skill with more independence, particularly for NEA deadlines.</p>
<p>Year 9, Middle School and Sixth Form</p>	<p>In terms of the development of creative thinking, English is by its nature a creative subject, continually challenging pupils to think imaginatively about a range of texts, ideas and even problem-solving scenarios. In the Lower School we have a rich and diverse program of creative writing where pupils work with both fiction and non-fiction media. This not only builds explicitly creative skills but also nurtures their skill of empathy as we encourage pupils to write from a range of perspectives and ‘step into the shoes’ of characters from altogether different times, experiences and places.</p> <p>This is much the same in the Middle School for the GCSE English Language course, which also introduces the analysis of fiction and non-fiction texts, expanding on key ideas such as ‘viewpoints and perspectives’. Contextual factors also become more prominent in the KS4 provision as pupils develop their creative thinking and empathy to consider authors, readers and their contemporary contexts as a means of understanding core messages.</p> <p>Alongside this, pupils have an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities to expand their creativity such as: Creative Writing Club; the Queen’s Commonwealth Writing Competition; Jack Petchey; and the Cultural Enrichment Project. We also have the gifted and talented club Pegasus especially for Year 11 to practise their creative and problem-solving skills.</p> <p>In Sixth Form, students continue to develop their creative thinking and problem solving, adding depth to connections between texts and contextual factors, engaging in independently-led flipped learning, independent resource generation and the completion of the NEA. For A-Level English Literature, the NEA is a largely independent task where students choose their texts and questions in line with guidance. KS5 students also have access to our successful MOxbridge Club which aims to stretch and challenge their creative skills in a seminar-style format.</p>



Westcliff High School for Boys

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Careers across the curriculum

in ENGLISH

<p>In Middle School</p>	<p>We develop problem solving as alongside Exam Conditioning, the Spoken Language Endorsement (NEA), Pegasus, and Jack Petchey, support the development of strong problem-solving skills.</p> <p>Exam Conditioning teaches pupils to break down unfamiliar tasks, think logically, and respond effectively under pressure. The Spoken Language Endorsement develops the ability to plan, adapt, and respond to challenges in real time. Extra-curricular clubs and activities such as Pegasus and Jack Petchey further build independence, teamwork, and decision-making through practical experiences. Together, these opportunities help pupils become adaptable and resilient problem-solvers, well prepared for further study and the workplace.</p>
<p>In Sixth Form</p>	<p>Peer-teaching, seminar-style lessons, and MOxbridge provision all play a key role in developing networking skills in Sixth Form students studying English Literature at A-Level. Through peer-teaching, students learn to collaborate, share expertise, and build supportive academic relationships, mirroring professional environments where knowledge-sharing is essential. Seminar-style lessons encourage open discussion, active listening, and respectful challenge, helping students to engage confidently with others' ideas and contribute to group dialogue. MOxbridge provision further develops these skills by exposing students to high-level academic discussion and competitive environments, where articulating ideas clearly and building rapport with peers and mentors is crucial.</p> <p>Together, these experiences help students develop the confidence, communication, and interpersonal awareness needed to build effective networks in higher education and future careers.</p>

Development of Subject Specific Skills which are Relevant to Next Steps / the Workplace

At WHSB, English from KS3 to KS5 is fundamental in developing the soft skills that underpin success in both higher education and the workplace. Through the study of a wide range of texts and ideas, pupils build confidence in expressing their views, listening to others, and engaging respectfully with different perspectives. They develop strong communication skills, emotional intelligence, adaptability, and the ability to think independently and make reasoned judgements.

These skills are nurtured through a curriculum that prioritises discussion, collaboration, and reflection. At KS3, pupils are encouraged to share ideas, work with peers, and develop confidence in speaking and writing. As they progress through KS4 and KS5, they take greater ownership of their learning, managing extended tasks, meeting deadlines, and responding to feedback. Activities such as group discussions, presentations, and independent study help students become resilient, self-motivated, and increasingly articulate.

The relevance of these soft skills to [next](#) steps is significant. Employers and higher education providers value individuals who can communicate clearly, work effectively with others, and approach challenges with confidence and flexibility. The ability to listen, collaborate, and express ideas thoughtfully is essential across all career pathways, ensuring that students leave English not only with academic knowledge, but with the personal and professional skills needed to succeed in a wide range of contexts.



Westcliff High School for Boys

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Careers across the curriculum

in ENGLISH

Extra-curricular Opportunities	
British Library Activities (All Years)	Visits and workshops develop research skills, independence, and intellectual curiosity, supporting pupils in navigating information critically – key for higher education and professional environments.
Echo News Takeover (All Years)	Provides real-world experience of journalism, teamwork, and meeting deadlines, developing communication and organisational skills relevant to media and beyond.
Theatre Trips (All years, age dependent for material)	Enhance confidence, interpretation, and engagement with live audiences, supporting communication skills and adaptability—important in client-facing and collaborative roles.
Creative Writing Club (Years 7-10)	Writing for pleasure in different media. Awareness of different media, exposure to different texts. Re-casting from one mode of writing to another and the development of expression and communication.
Young Writers Competitions (Years 7-10)	Promotes ambition and pride in high-quality work, helping pupils to meet external standards and deadlines, preparing them for competitive academic and professional contexts.
Queen’s Commonwealth Essay Competition (Years 7-10)	Develops global awareness, independent thinking, and the ability to respond to real-world themes, preparing students for careers that value cultural literacy and critical engagement.
Cultural Enrichment Project (Year 8)	Broadens cultural awareness and empathy, supporting pupils in understanding diverse perspectives, an essential skill in global workplaces and collaborative environments.
Jack Petchey (Year 10)	Builds leadership, teamwork, and community engagement, encouraging pupils to take initiative, which are key qualities for employability and progression into leadership roles.
Pegasus (Year 11)	Supports transition to higher education by developing independence, aspiration, and goal-setting, helping pupils prepare for academic and career pathways.
MASSOLIT (Years 10-13)	Encourages independent learning and engagement with expert perspectives, helping students to develop self-discipline and critical engagement – skills valued in higher education and professional training.
KS5 Mentoring (Year 12)	Develops leadership, responsibility, and interpersonal skills through supporting younger pupils; these are valuable for careers involving teamwork, management, and communication.



Westcliff High School for Boys

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Careers across the curriculum

in ENGLISH

English MOxbridge Society (Years 12-13)	Prepares students for competitive university applications by developing confidence, discussion skills, and intellectual independence, thereby supporting progression to top institutions and careers.
Gould Essay Competition (Years 12-13)	Encourages independent research, critical thinking, and academic writing, preparing students for university-level study and careers requiring analytical skills.
Oxford Tower Poetry (Years 12-13)	Fosters creativity, precision in language, and personal voice, supporting careers in creative industries while strengthening communication skills applicable across professions.