



Holsworthy
High School

English Faculty

ENGLISH



English Curriculum

The new 7-10 English syllabus commenced in 2024 with Years 7 & 9 and in 2025 for Years 8 & 10. The focus areas for each stage support students' knowledge and understanding in the areas:

- Reading, viewing and listening to texts
- Understanding and responding to texts
- Expressing and composing texts

Across each stage quality literature text selection from Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples, and from across the world will include extended prose, poetry collections, film, drama texts, including Shakespeare, fiction and non fiction texts and a range of texts that are visual and literary, multimodal and digital.

Aim

To enable students to understand and use language effectively. To appreciate, reflect on and enjoy language, and make meaning in ways that are imaginative, creative, interpretive, critical and powerful.

Public Speaking and Debating

At Holsworthy High School we have a strong culture of Public Speaking and Debating.

- All students in Years 7-12 complete a **formal speech** before an audience of their peers and teachers.
- Students enter a range of **Public Speaking Competitions**. Successes include **State Finalists** in competitions such as the United Nations Youth Speaking Competition, Quota Youth of the Year and the Junior Legacy Public Speaking Competition.
- We participate in the state wide **Premier's Debating Challenge**. Our Debating teams perform at a high level with students selected for **Regional Teams**.
- We participate every year in the Real Talk Poetry Competition. In 2018 we won this Competition.



Drama

This course embodies learning the foundation skills for the performing arts involving engagement in improvisation and group projects aimed at developing fresh exciting pieces of live work.

- Students perform regularly in CAPA.
- Our students have been chosen to attend State Drama Camps and students can audition for the State Drama Ensemble.
- We have an excellent working relationship with Bell Shakespeare, Riverside and Belvoir Theatres giving our students opportunities to see live drama performances.



Reading and Wide Reading

All students in Years 7 participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students in Years 7-10 are timetabled one period a fortnight in the library for Wide Reading.

The English Faculty runs in partnership with our school Librarian a Year 8 Renaissance reading program which helps all students reach their full reading potential.

The Use of Technology

Our units of work incorporate ICT skills for a variety of purposes from film making to publishing work in various formats, Google Classroom is also utilised.

Extending Students' Learning

Extension classes are now in operation in Years 7-10 English. Students are given opportunities to enter **external competitions** such as the Australian English Speaking Competition, essay writing, film making and at **HSC level** our students can explore a love of English through **Extension 1 and 2 Courses**.

ICAS Examinations

The English Faculty gives students in Years 7 and 8 an opportunity to sit for the University of NSW ICAS exams. In English the test is a comprehensive skills based assessment that assesses the higher order thinking and problem solving skills of students.

Young Sydney Writers Day

Every year we attend the Young Sydney Writers Day at the University of Western Sydney where published authors hold lectures and workshops on creative writing. This caters and extends writing opportunities for our students.

Overview of Stage 6 English

Students will complete **ONE** Preliminary course and **ONE** HSC course from:

- English (Advanced)
- English (Standard)
- English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D)
- English Studies

Students undertaking (Advanced) may choose, in addition, to study:

- English (Extension) 1 and 2 (HSC only)

ENGLISH FACULTY

Ms B. Portolan - Head Teacher

Ms J Davis DP

Mr M. Bayndrian

Ms R. Lal

Mr S. Hossain

Ms F. Bell

Ms C. Da Costa

Ms N. Cupac

Ms J. Sous