ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Our Mission
The English Faculty aims to make all students competent articulate communicators, critical and imaginative thinkers and autonomous, reflective and creative learners. The study of English enables students to recognise and use a diversity of approaches and texts to meet the growing array of literacy demands, including higher-order social, aesthetic and cultural literacy. Through reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing experience, ideas and values, students are encouraged to adopt a critical approach to all texts and to distinguish the qualities of texts developing an enjoyment of English and an appreciation of its value and role in learning.

Culture of Thinking
‘Culture of Thinking’ and innovative pedagogy is used to ensure a differentiated curriculum enables all students to reach their personal best. Covey’s ‘Leader in Me’ is used to ensure students develop personal skills which facilitate learning and success not only in English but across all curriculum areas. Specific focuses such as ‘be proactive’, ‘begin with the end in mind’ and ‘put first things first’ are ways of enabling students to take control of their own learning using outcomes as a way of directing their study and preparation. Further ‘think win-win’, ‘seek first to understand then to be understood’ and ‘synergise’ focus attention on interpersonal skills and the value of teamwork. Finally, ‘sharpen the saw’ highlights the imperative of regular and strategic practice.
Incursions / Excursions

All year groups are exposed to a variety of Incursions/Excursions appropriate to their respective units of work. Some examples in 2013 were as follows:

- Grand Theatrics workshops—‘Romeo and Juliet’, ‘Macbeth’
- Tug Dumbly – performance poet
- Love! Death! A little Madness! – Shakespeare performance
- CyberBully – play exploring issues of bullying and cyber-bullying
- Indigenous performers
- Riverside Theatre ‘The Shoe-Horn Sonata’
- Sydney Theatre Company ‘Hamlet’
- Sydney Writers’ Festival

Significant Annual Events

1. HSC English Extension II Showcase Evening
2. Masada Public Speaking Competition
3. Book Week Author Visit and Workshop
4. HSC English Extension Workshop with University Academic

Competitions

1. Masada Public Speaking Competition
2. Masada Creative Writing Competition
3. The Sydney Morning Herald Young Writer of the Year Competition
4. Writtenow! Competition – Sydney Writers’ Festival
5. Whitlam Institute What Matters? Competition
6. Dorothea Mackellar Writing Competition
7. Write4Fun Competition
8. What the Dickens? Competition

Achievements

Masada does consistently well for English across all courses in the HSC over the last ten years. Some notable achievements are as follows:

2013 - 85% of Advanced students were in the top two Bands
2012 - 98% of Advanced students were in the two top Bands
  - One of our student’s Major Work short story was shortlisted to be published in Young Writers Showcase
  - One student achieved an impressive Band 6 in Standard English (166 awarded in the state from more than 31,000 candidates)
2009 - all HSC Advanced students achieved a Band 5 or a Band 6 results
2006 - one of our student’s Major Work short story was published in the Writers Showcase 6
2005 - 5th in the State in English