

ENGLISH

In English, our aim is to empower students in life by developing their communication skills in writing, reading, speaking and listening.

What does the English Department offer at Keilor Downs College?

- Debating – participation in the Debating Association of Victoria (D.A.V.) and inter-school competition. (We regularly have competitors who win the prestigious Swannie Awards for the best speaker in the region.)
- Participation in the Victorian Public Speaking Competition.
- A Poetry workshop/performance at year 7 and 8.
- The Premier's Reading Challenge is incorporated into our wider reading programme for Years 7 to 9. We have been very successful participants in this state-wide initiative for several years.
- Literature Circles and Reading Conferences at years 7 and 8 are included in our teaching and learning programme, to engage, inspire and monitor students' reading participation and progress.
- We teach film as text, poetry, short stories, plays and novels, a variety of text-types, language analysis and issues, genre units and digital storytelling.
- NAPLAN revision and preparation at Years 7 and 9 is incorporated into the programme prior to the testing period to ease students and familiarise them with its specific structures, language and instructions. Our NAPLAN results consistently indicate that we support our students to make great progress in their English skills across Years 7 – 9.
- Guest authors visit the school and provide writing workshops and lectures to further enhance students' appreciation of literature and the writing process. Alice Pung, Morris Gleitzman, Arnold Zable, Tony Ghosthawk, Hendre Roelik, among others, have been regular visitors to Keilor Downs College.



Key Features



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- Year 12 revision lectures by university academics and state VCE assessors are a part of the KDC revision week, leading up to the English exam.
- A Year 12 compulsory end of year practice exam is held in late September to enable students to become familiar with the exam and assist in their revision preparation.
- We offer VCE Literature (Units 1-4)
- VCAL Literacy is offered as a hands-on applied learning alternative at Years 11 and 12 for students seeking employment or apprenticeships.
- Students who are learning English as their Second Language study EAL in small specialised classes at years 10,11 and 12.
- Students attend live performances (plays and films) of the texts they study. For example, *Romeo and Juliet* (Year 10), *Cosi* (Year 12), *Billy Elliot* (Year 7), *Macbeth* (Year 11) and *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas* (Year 9).
- We celebrate English Week and offer students opportunities to participate in the annual student versus staff debate, a KDC spelling bee – junior spelling competition, guest speakers' forums, a variety of competitions and the annual Poetry Slam.

