Spiritual development in English

A range of literature is taught in KS3 and KS4 which aids students' spiritual development through discussion and debate. For example, the study of *A Christmas Carol*, amongst other texts, encourages students to consider the consequences of right and wrong behaviour and reflect on their own lives.

Students are encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs throughout their journey in English through creative writing and the study of poetry. These opportunities allow students to establish their own relationship with language and give them the freedom to reflect.

Furthermore, students are encouraged to be aware of the cultures, beliefs and traditions of others in the vast range of texts and topics studied throughout KS3 and KS4.

Moral development in English

A variety of moral issues, themes and topics are covered in the non-fiction and fiction texts we teach at The Boulevard Academy, as well as the study of transactional and creative writing. Many of the key concepts which are integral to our teaching of English allow for opportunities to develop our students' moral thinking. Key concepts such as, benevolence, prejudice and reform are introduced to students in KS3 and our 'pathways' provide multiple encounters with each key concept in different learning sequences and text types in order to prepare students for life beyond education.

Through the study of fiction, students frequently consider different perspectives and are encouraged to empathise with characters on a range of moral journeys. A wide range of moral questions are raised in the texts we have chosen to study in our curriculum. For example, the study of *Of Mice and Men* poses opportunities to explore issues including gender roles, race and prejudice. These moral issues, amongst others, are further explored in other areas of students' studies in English. The English department use a range of strategies to facilitate students' exploration of these moral issues throughout our curriculum. Furthermore, through explicit teaching of historical context, students can place the texts they study and the moral themes and debates raised within them into the world around themselves.

Social development in English

English lessons promote collaboration, cooperation and teamwork through discussions, debates and group work. Reflection and review are built into our curriculum, allowing students to become independent and resilient and to take responsibility for their own learning. An environment of safety is created in English classrooms where students are not afraid of failure and learn from mistakes to develop skills or knowledge and make progress. Our department is unashamedly aspirational and students are encouraged to experiment with language and think critically about literature.

Students are given opportunities to speak in different contexts, providing valuable foundations for life beyond The Boulevard Academy. Students often deal with real world issues in their speaking and transactional writing therefore they are able to reflect on these issues from different perspectives and develop informed opinions.

Cultural development in English

The English department strive to celebrate cultural diversity through all stages of the curriculum. In the study of literature students can learn about other cultures across the world through the lens of different authors and characters. We encourage our students to appreciate the different experiences, challenges and triumphs people from different cultures face through our diverse curriculum. Moreover, through studying some of the English Cannon our students can explore British history and culture.

We aim to provide our students with opportunities to expand their cultural capital through stage performances in school and as part of theatre trips; public speaking competitions and creative writing competitions. By providing these opportunities, which may otherwise be unavailable to many of our students, we hope to broaden horizons and expand students' cultural development.