

Gemma Whitfield

Teacher

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Secondary English teacher with five years of classroom experience across two state schools in Bristol. Consistently improved GCSE pass rates in my classes and took on responsibility for the Year 11 exam cohort in my third year. I run the school's creative writing club and coordinate the annual literary festival with local authors.

EXPERIENCE

Teacher of English, Cotham School, Bristol

Sep 2022 – Present

Teaching English Language and Literature to Key Stage 3 and 4 students across all ability sets.

- Year 11 GCSE English Language results improved from **62% to 74% grade 4+** over two academic years
- Introduced a structured revision programme for **180 Year 11 students** — attendance at after-school sessions averaged 78%
- Lead the AQA English department moderation process for **controlled assessments across 6 teaching groups**
- Organised the school literary festival with **8 visiting authors** and 400+ student participants

NQT / Teacher of English, Oasis Academy Brislington, Bristol

Sep 2020 – Jul 2022

Completed ECT induction and taught English across Key Stage 3 and GCSE classes.

- Taught **5 classes per week** across Years 7–10 with group sizes of 28–32 students
- Developed a phonics intervention programme for **24 Year 7 students** reading below age-related expectations — 17 reached expected level by July
- Created a KS3 poetry scheme of work adopted by **4 other English teachers** in the department

EDUCATION

PGCE Secondary English in English Education, University of Bristol, Bristol

Sep 2019 – Jun 2020

Qualified Teacher Status awarded. Placements at Ashton Park School and St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School. Received Outstanding grade in final teaching observation.

BA (Hons) in English Literature, University of Exeter, Exeter

Sep 2016 – Jun 2019

Upper Second Class Honours (2:1). Dissertation on post-war British women's fiction. Awarded the department prize for best seminar contribution in Year 3.

SKILLS

Lesson Planning & Differentiation, AQA & Edexcel GCSE English, Behaviour Management, Assessment & Marking (APP/AFL), Phonics & Literacy Intervention, Safeguarding (Level 2), Google Classroom & Microsoft Teams, SEND Awareness & Adaptation, Parent & Carer Communication, Data Tracking (SIMS, Go4Schools)

CERTIFICATIONS

Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), Department for Education

Jul 2020

PGCE Secondary English, University of Bristol

Sep 2019 – Jun 2020

Safeguarding Children Level 2, EduCare

Jan 2024 – Jan 2025

LANGUAGES

English (native), French (conversational)

PROJECTS

Year 11 GCSE Revision Programme – Cotham School

Jan 2023 – Jun 2023

Designed and ran a structured after-school revision programme for Year 11 English.

- Created **36 revision sessions** covering all AQA English Language and Literature papers
- Average attendance of **78% across 180 students** — up from 45% in the previous year's ad-hoc sessions
- Contributed to a **12 percentage point increase** in grade 4+ results

KS3 Poetry Curriculum Redesign – Oasis Academy Brislington

Sep 2021 – Apr 2022

Rewrote the Year 8 and Year 9 poetry schemes of work to improve engagement and cultural diversity.

- Introduced poets from **12 different cultural backgrounds** across the scheme
- Student enjoyment survey scores for poetry rose from **34% to 61%**

REFERENCES

Catherine Hale, Head of English, Cotham School, c.hale@cotham.bristol.sch.uk, +44 7700 900 412

Rashid Anwar, Assistant Headteacher, Oasis Academy Brislington, r.anwar@oasisbrislington.org, +44 7700 900 558

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Creative Writing Club Lead – Cotham School

Sep 2022

Run a weekly creative writing club for 25 students in Years 7–9. Three students had work published in the Young Writers anthology in 2024.

Volunteer Reader – Bristol Libraries Reading Programme

Jan 2021

Volunteer at Bedminster Library supporting the Summer Reading Challenge. Helped 40+ children aged 6–11 complete the programme each summer.