

Curriculum Overview: English

Principles and Purpose of the ENGLISH Curriculum

Through the study of important works of literature, we want our students to engage with what writers and thinkers over the centuries have had to say about the human experience: triumph and tragedy, suffering and loss, pride, humility, and identity. We want our students to hear from a diverse range of writers and connect with the texts they study. We want our students to love English.

Through this study we also want our students to develop fluency in reading, a command of written English and confidence in speaking. We want our students to leave school feeling empowered by the knowledge that the world is open to them. We want our curriculum to help them to find confidence in their own ideas and opinions, and to guide them in mastering the language skills required to convey those ideas.

Why this, why now?

Our English Curriculum has been carefully sequenced to introduce students to a variety of literary genres and form, including different writing forms. Each year has a key theme: Conflict in Year 7, Social Justice in Year 8 and Relationships and Identity in year 9.

Term 1	Autumn 1	Why this, why now?	Autumn 2	Why this, why now?
Year 7	Treasure Island	Introduces students to key study areas – characterization; setting; narrative (voice); descriptive writing.	Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Builds on ideas begun in Autumn 1 – characterization, setting, narrative – adds symbolism, foreshadowing – builds in narrative as well as descriptive writing
Year 8	Dracula	Introduction to the genre of GOTHIC fiction / horror – develops from Year 7 – narrative voice, characterization, setting, symbolism and foreshadowing – narrative and descriptive writing	Richard III	Develops focus on Shakespearian drama from Year 7 – conventions and purpose of a History play, use of dramatic devices, characterization and context of the drama



Year 9	The Crucible	Focus on a Tragedy play – develops modern play study from Year 8 – establishes ideas of identity and power / relationships – builds on Year 8 characterisation, conventions of drama, dramatic devices and writing a speech	Relationships and Identity short story anthology	Develops study of short story format – builds on Year 8 characterisation, setting, symbolism as well as carrying on focus on identity and power dynamics
Year 10	Lit text MODERN – An Inspector Calls	Begins GCSE course with an accessible more modern play text – students are developing their practice from modern play text exploration like ‘Pygmalion’ in Year 8 – also connects with play script inc characterisation, theme and context carried over from Year 9 Shakespeare.	Lit text 19 th Century text – A Christmas Carol + preparation for English Language Paper 1	Timely place for this pre-Christmas – also develops narrative text focus on 19 th century texts from Sherlock Holmes in Yr9. Allows for study of key GCSE LIT text moving forward from AIC with similar focus on society / poverty etc... PREP for Paper 1 linked to Yr10 EXAMS as well as linking to all writing skills exercises in KS3
Year 11	Lit Poetry anthology – Power and Conflict	Remaining GCSE English LIT topic completed – ready for exams to follow in NOV. Links to all poetry reading and response skills taken in Years 7, 8 and 9 as well as the unseen poetry	Mock Exams – completion of LIT poetry anthology	Completes focus with revision of AIC and unseen poetry ready for GCSE mock exams

Term 2	Spring 1	Why this, why now?	Spring 2	Why this, why now?
Year 7	Conflict anthology non-fiction – Ann Frank’s diary	Covers conventions of non-fiction forms and writing	Conflict Anthology - POETRY	Builds on Spring 1 focus – adds perspective (viewpoint); poetic



		speeches – builds on narrative voice		form and how to read / write poetry
Year 8	Social Justice non-fiction anthology: anchor text – “I am Malala”	Develops autobiographical writing from Year 7 – focus on power and relationships – conventions of non-fiction forms of writing, perspective – writing focus is on autobiographical writing	Dystopian Short Stories	Introduces students to short story format – focus remains on power / deception – links to Richard III – characterization, settings, narrative voice and symbolism
Year 9	Relationships and Identity non-fiction anthology – anchor text “We should all be feminists”	Study of formal essay writing – links to Year 8 focus on power and identity – focus on gender – conventions of non-fiction forms, narrative voice and perspectives	Short Stories – the Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Continued focus on identity and deception and the detective fiction genre – continued development of characterization, setting, symbolism and narrative structure
Year 10	Language Paper 1 preparation – Year 10 exams + Shakespeare LIT - Macbeth	MOCK exam followed by Shakespeare – preparation on Shakespeare using more time to suitably cover this text fully – links to Shakespeare texts (comedy, history and tragedy) covered in Years 7, 8 and 9.	Shakespeare LIT - Macbeth` Further revision post mock of English Language Paper 1 skills	Continued focus and completion of Macbeth as prep for English LIT. Continued focus on Paper 1 Language skills post mock exam.
Year 11	ACC, Macbeth and Language Paper 1 revision and re-testing	Preparation and revision of key LIT texts and Paper 1 reading and writing skills ready for the GCSE mock exam MARCH	Paper 1 LANG and LIT revision – exam skills – MOCK EXAM 2 Then Paper 2 Language reading and transactional writitng; AIC further revision using MOCK 1 identified targets / unseen poetry revision	MOCK EXAM 2 – followed by further revision of set topics – in preparation for the final summer exams



Term 2	Summer 1	Why this, why now?	Summer 2	Why this, why now?
Year 7	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Introduces students to Shakespeare / playscripts – builds on characterization, setting and conventions of a play as well as the use / effect of dramatic devices	The Girl of Ink and Stars	Builds on Autumn focus – more complex elements of characterization, setting, narrative and theme
Year 8	Social Justice anthology - POETRY	Develops complexity of poetry study from Year 7 – builds on authorial perspective, poetic forms and the reading and writing of poetry – continued focus on power and relationships	Pygmalion – modern play	Introduction to the concept of satire – modern play text – characterization, conventions of a play and use of dramatic devices in this context
Year 9	Relationships and Identity anthology - POETRY	Develops complexity of poetry study from Year 8 – poetic perspectives, poetic forms and writing poetry – focus on relationships and identity as well as love as a theme	SHAKESPEARE - Romeo and Juliet	Develops Shakespeare focus – Years 7 and 8 – develops TRAGEDY focus Autumn 1 – relationships and power dynamic explored – characterization, dramatic devices, conventions of a tragedy play – focus on context
Year 10	Unseen Poetry – Language Paper 1 – LIT ACC and Macbeth revision	Preparation for unseen poetry question / task in readiness for next year – and to cover this part of the LIT course. Revision of key topics in readiness for summer mock exam – Macbeth and ACC	MOCK EXAM two – LIT and Language – Speaking and Listening assessment`	MOCK exams and further revision of all key topics (including AIC) - completion of speaking and listening assessment (separately endorsed) as part of the GCSE.



Year 11	FURTHER revision – Language Paper 1	Revision for summer exams – final preparation and support	N/A	
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Spring Exam

Reading: **Year 7:** Wolves of Willoughby Chase extract question. **Year 8:** Richard III character extract question. **Year 9:** Crucible character / theme question. **Year 10:** Paper 1 MOCK exam (and below). **Year 11:** (NOV) Mock 1 – Paper 2 Language and Paper 2 Lit. (MARCH) Mock 2 – Paper 1 Language and Paper 2 Lit.

Writing: **Year 7:** Creative writing task (narrative OR description). **Year 8:** Creative writing task (narrative OR description). **Year 9:** Persuasive writing task. **Year 10:** Paper 1 MOCK exam. **Year 11:** (NOV) Mock 1 – Paper 2 Language writing (transactional) (MARCH) Mock 2 – Paper 1 Language writing (descriptive / narrative)

Summer Exam

Reading: **Year 7:** Poetry anthology question – war poetry (chosen from four potential poems). **Year 8:** Dystopian Fiction question (selected from one of two short stories studied). **Year 9:** Sherlock Holmes question (selected from one of two stories read). **Year 10:** (JUNE) English Language Paper 1 and English LIT paper 1. **Year 11:** ALL final Lit and Language exams.

Writing: **Year 7:** Creative writing task (narrative OR description). **Year 8:** Creative writing task (narrative OR description). **Year 9:** Persuasive writing task. **Year 10:** (JUNE) English Language Paper 1 writing. **Year 11:** ALL final Lit and Language exams.