

English Curriculum Map

The English curriculum aims to:

- Develop the reading, writing, speaking and listening skills of all students.
- Develop students’ cultural capital through exposure to a diverse range of texts.
- Promote a love of reading and literature.
- Enable pupils to develop key literacy skills for school and beyond.

At KS3, we provide students with an overall chronology of key historical and literary periods from Ancient Greece to present day. This foundational knowledge allows pupils to make intertextual links across texts and literary movements fostering a deeper more analytical understanding when reading. We focus on developing ambitious vocabularies and use of disciplinary terminology so that that pupils are highly literate and can express themselves through excellent reading, writing and verbal communication skills. Pupils are encouraged to read widely and for pleasure, with the understanding that through this, they will continue to develop key interchangeable literacy skills that can be used across subjects and into adulthood. Our broad KS3 curriculum, enables pupils to build the required knowledge, skills and confidence to tackle the rigorous requirements of KS4 and the GCSE examination.

At KS4, we draw on substantive knowledge developed across KS3 to sharpen and hone our students’ analytical skills. Pupils continue to build on their repertoire of contextual knowledge while refining their ability to accurately read, speak and write in a variety of forms for a variety of purposes. Pupils are encouraged to develop an appreciation of literature in its various forms while building on their cultural capital through trips and extra-curricular activities. We take a meticulous approach to teaching the craft of writing and encourage students to see the empowering benefits of being a highly literate individual beyond school. As a department, we aim to ensure all pupils make outstanding progress. Through this challenging and broad curriculum, we aim to develop highly literate and resilient learners, who are able to evaluate society, their role within it and who can confidently and precisely, express their views on this.

At KS5, our English curriculum challenges and inspires students through a wide range of sophisticated texts, fostering critical thinking and an appreciation of literature. Students study whole texts such as A Streetcar Named Desire, Hamlet, The Handmaid’s Tale, Frankenstein, and the poetry of John Keats. These are complemented by shorter extracts from writers like Zadie Smith and James Baldwin, alongside critical essays by figures such as Germaine Greer and Chinua Achebe, providing a diverse range of perspectives. Students also independently select two texts to analyse, encouraging personal engagement and intellectual curiosity. Regular in-class assessments and detailed feedback ensure steady progress, supporting the development of analytical and writing skills. The final assessment consists of 20% coursework and examinations, which require students to craft insightful essays on both studied and unseen texts. By exposing students to challenging literature and fostering independent thinking, we aim to equip them with strong evaluative skills, a deep understanding of texts, and a lasting passion for reading and analysis.

	Autumn 1		Autumn 2		Spring 1	Spring 2		Summer 1	Summer 2	
Year 7	Autobiographies and Memoirs	Autumn 1 Assessment	Greek Mythology	Autumn 2 Assessment	Introduction to Shakespeare and Selected Sonnets by William Shakespeare	Modern novel – ‘Refugee Boy’	Spring Assessment	19 th -century Fiction <i>Sherlock Holmes</i> by Arthur Conan Doyle	Revision (Lit – SH, Lang P1)	End of Year Assessment
Year 8	Short Stories & Creative Writing Transition to Year 8		An Introduction to Poetry Movements		Modern Drama: <i>A Monster Calls</i> Patrick Ness adapted for stage by Adam Peck	Non-fiction Writing & Speaking		Elizabethan England <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare Original Text	Revision (Lit – R&J, Lang P1)	
Year 9	Non-fiction <u>writing (Q5)</u> <i>Articles, letters, blogs, adverts</i>		<i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell		Poems of Protest, Resistance and Empowerment <u>Unseen poetry</u>	Building Language Skills Speeches Selection of Contemporary and 19 th -century texts		Transition from Elizabethan England to Jacobean England – <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare Original Text	Revision (Lit – Othello, Lang P2)	
Year 10	Modern Drama: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by Priestley		Language Skills – Creative Reading and Writing		Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology + Unseen Poetry	Mastering Non-fiction Texts (Language Paper 2)		Jacobean England <i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare	Revision for EOY exam (‘Macbeth’ & Lang 2) AQA Speaking & Listening	

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