

Year 8 English Curriculum Map

How does the writer engage or influence us? How as writers can we engage or influence our readers?						
Topic Studied	Classic Novel study: Oliver Twist	Non-Fiction – The Art of Rhetoric	Nature and the environment	Spoken English Competition	Poetry – writer study: Simon Armitage	The Tempest Drama and English Unit, including creative writing
Learning objectives and links	<p>Students begin their study of this canonical novel by learning about Charles Dickens, the workhouses and society at the time. This knowledge builds on their previous learning of writers’ contexts and develops thinking about how authors’ motives affects their writing.</p> <p>Students develop their ability of how to summarise and check the meaning of a challenging text for clarity. In addition, they learn how to make predictions, inferences and continue to develop their knowledge of how language affects meaning.</p> <p>The knowledge of how a complex character is created is developed, and how female characters are presented is gained through analysis of the character of Nancy.</p>	<p>Students will study the origins of rhetoric, the Aristotelian Triad and how it has been used in a range of speeches, such as Martin Luther King, JFK and in fiction such as Animal Farm.</p>	<p>Students will study a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry with the theme of nature and the environment. This will continue to develop their knowledge of how writers ideas and messages motivates their work and explore literary devices such as figurative language in poetry. This topic also gives students the opportunity to read work from around the world and link back to some of the environmental messages they read about in Year 7 in Sky Dancer.</p>	<p>Students prepare a formal presentation on the theme of the environment. They choose a topic of interest to them, inspired by their reading in the previous topic and using the rhetorical devices learned this year.</p> <p>In addition, they draw on the speech writing and presenting skills that they learned in Year 7.</p>	<p>Students will study the work of our current poet Laureate, developing their knowledge of poetic devices and writers’ intentions. They will look closely how poetic conventions have been used and make comparisons and express preferences across texts.</p>	<p>Students will develop their knowledge of Shakespeare and the concept of it as a play to be staged, while building on drama skills from Year 7. They will use this as the basis for a piece of creative writing.</p>
<p>Throughout the year, students are encouraged to develop their love of reading through reading widely and independently. They are encouraged to use the school library and share their opinions of the books that they are reading.</p> <p>Students develop their vocabulary through reading and explicit teaching of vocabulary on a regular basis, supported by the digital leaning platforms ‘Bedrock’ and Century Tech.</p> <p>Students are given regular opportunities for extended writing in a range of styles and for different purposes in regular ‘Writing Challenges’.</p> <p>Grammar, punctuation and spelling is taught throughout the year and adapted according to the needs of the learners.</p>						