

Christ the King Catholic High School: English – Curriculum Overview 2025 - 2026



KEY STAGE 2		YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
<p>The English national curriculum stipulates that students in Key Stage 2 should demonstrate the ability to read a diverse range of poetry and age-appropriate books aloud accurately and at a reasonable pace. They should read most words effortlessly and decode unfamiliar written words with increasing ease.</p> <p>Additionally, students should summarise and present familiar stories in their own words, engaging in frequent reading for both pleasure and information. They should also read silently with good comprehension, inferring meanings of unfamiliar words.</p> <p>In terms of writing, students should be able to quickly jot down their ideas, exhibiting broad accuracy and ambition in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.</p> <p>For those struggling with decoding skills, a rigorous and systematic phonics programme is crucial for swift improvement – See Learning and Life Skills Curriculum Map.</p> <p>By the end of Year 6, students' reading and writing should be fluent and effortless enough to handle the general demands of the Year 7 curriculum. Nonetheless, there remains a need to learn subject-specific vocabulary. Students should demonstrate an understanding of audience and purpose in their writing, making informed choices regarding vocabulary and grammar. Teachers should prepare students for secondary education by ensuring they can consciously control sentence structure and comprehend the reasons behind sentence construction. Additionally, students should grasp nuances in vocabulary choice and employ age-appropriate academic language.</p>	TERM 1	<p>Unit 1: Gothic Horror Writing Key Themes: Characterisation, setting, descriptive techniques, Gothic literature elements, narrative structure. Rationale: Foundation for effective communication through descriptive writing, understanding Gothic literature elements, and creating engaging narratives. Fast Read: Cirque du Freak</p> <p>Unit 2: Novel Study - "Cirque du Freak" by Darren Shan Key Themes: Social issues, character development, analysis of themes, narrative structure, writing skills, critical thinking. Rationale: Shifting to real-world themes, encouraging critical thinking about social issues, analysing complex narratives.</p> <p>Unit 3: Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Key Themes: Shakespearean literature, character analysis, themes of love and dreams, language analysis, literary traditions, historical context, Shakespeare's life and works. Rationale: Understanding Shakespearean works, enhancing knowledge of literary aspects, exploring historical context, and creating a leaflet on Shakespeare's life and works.</p> <p>Unit 4: Poetry Through Time Key Themes: Poetry forms, literary heritage, language analysis, comparison between poems, creative writing, expressive language use. Rationale: Expanding language understanding, exploring creativity in language use, appreciation of poetic forms and historical context.</p> <p>Unit 5: Advertising and Persuasive Key Themes: Persuasive language, advertising techniques, target audience analysis, language analysis, critical evaluation of advertisements. Rationale: Building on descriptive techniques, understanding persuasive power of language, analysing and creating effective advertisements.</p> <p>Progression and Golden Thread: Students are introduced to core literary knowledge including narrative structure, poetic form, and persuasive language. They begin to understand how writers shape meaning and create effect. This foundational knowledge is applied through descriptive writing, creative responses, and character analysis.</p> <p>Students have a one-hour reading lesson each week to develop fluency, vocabulary and reading for pleasure.</p>	<p>Fast Read: Animal Farm</p> <p>Unit 1: The Novel - Animal Farm Key Themes: Power, corruption, revolution, allegory, consequences of unchecked power, individual agency in society. Rationale: Builds upon Year 7's study of social issues in "Trash," emphasising critical thinking and delving deeper into allegorical literature.</p> <p>Unit 2: Non-Fiction - News & Media Key Themes: Media literacy, critical analysis of news reporting, bias detection, persuasive writing, oral communication skills Rationale: Expands on persuasive language and media analysis from Year 7's advertising unit, enhancing critical thinking in evaluating information.</p> <p>Unit 3: Shakespeare - Macbeth Key Themes: Ambition, power, morality, character analysis, Shakespearean language, universal themes in literature. Rationale: Deepens literary analysis skills from Year 7's study of Shakespeare, focusing on complex themes and language use.</p> <p>Unit4: Spy Thrillers Key Themes: Spy genre, narrative structure, character development, suspense elements, active listening, reading strategies, storytelling techniques. Rationale: Advances storytelling skills from Year 7's exploration of different literary genres, honing narrative abilities and language conventions.</p> <p>Unit 5: Non-Fiction Reading Key Themes: Analysing viewpoints, identifying language techniques, comparing perspectives, structure and tone, reading for inference and summary Rationale: Develops critical reading and analytical skills through engagement with a range of non-fiction texts. Prepares students to confidently interpret, evaluate, and compare information and ideas across different texts.</p> <p>Progression and Golden Thread: Students deepen their knowledge of theme, characterisation and structural techniques. They explore more complex texts including Shakespeare and allegory, learning to evaluate how writers construct meaning. This knowledge is transferred into extended writing, comparative analysis, and evaluation of media and non-fiction.</p> <p>Students have a one-hour reading lesson each week to embed reading habits and strengthen comprehension.</p>	<p>Unit 1: The Power of Speech Key Themes: Persuasive language, historical speeches, rhetoric, speech writing, public speaking, critical analysis. Rationale: Builds on persuasive writing skills, analysing historical speeches for structure and rhetoric, enhancing speech writing and public speaking abilities.</p> <p>Unit 2: Power and Conflict Key Themes: Power dynamics, conflict, social justice, empathy, impact of conflict on society. Rationale: Explores power theme from Macbeth (Year 8), delving deeper with diverse contemporary novels and enhancing analytical and critical thinking skills.</p> <p>Unit 3: Non-Fiction Reading & Writing Key Themes: Critical reading, evaluating texts, comparing ideas and perspectives, analysing language and structure in non-fiction. Rationale: Advances non-fiction reading skills by critically evaluating texts from various eras, deepening analytical abilities and cultural awareness.</p> <p>Unit 4: War & Conflict Poetry Key Themes: War and conflict, impact on soldiers and society, patriotic themes, violence, propaganda, poetic forms, literary heritage. Rationale: Develops analytical and comparison skills. Analysing poems inspired by historical events.</p> <p>Unit 5: Suburbia Key Themes: Society, environment, social commentary, observation and critique Rationale: Enhances non-fiction writing skills in a real-world context. Students analyse and report on suburban life, developing awareness of form, tone, and audience in writing. This unit bridges creative description and transactional writing</p> <p>Progression and Golden Thread: Students consolidate key knowledge of context, perspective and thematic development across diverse text types. They explore rhetoric, social commentary, and poetic voice—using this knowledge to compare texts, construct arguments, and craft personal responses.</p> <p>Students have a one-hour reading lesson each week to enhance critical reading and analytical skills.</p>	<p>Unit 1: Romeo and Juliet Key Themes: Tragedy, Shakespeare's life, role of women, characterisation, poetic structure. Rationale: Builds upon prior understanding of Shakespearean elements from Year 9, emphasising tragic genre and poetic form. Fast Read: A Christmas Carol</p> <p>Unit 2: A Christmas Carol Key Themes: Victorian England, social class, responsibility, Dickens' narrative techniques. Rationale: Extends socio-historical exploration from Year 9, focusing on narrative techniques in a novella.</p> <p>Unit 3: Component 1 – Narrative Writing Key Themes: Narrative structure, tone, character creation, descriptive technique Rationale: Builds creative writing craft with focus on narrative form and engaging storytelling</p> <p>Unit 4: Component 1 – Reading Fiction Key Themes: Narrative voice, language analysis, mood and setting, characterisation Rationale: Develops analytical reading skills through fiction, preparing for Eduqas Language Paper 1, Section A</p> <p>Unit 5: Poetry Anthology Key Themes: Poetic structure, theme, voice, language and context Rationale: Introduces a range of poems with varied themes and contexts; builds comparative and analytical skills across texts</p> <p>Unit 6: Component 3- Spoken Language Key Themes: Rhetoric, speech structure, audience awareness, public speaking Rationale: Develops confidence and communication skills through speech planning and delivery. Supports Eduqas Component 3 assessment with a focus on clarity, structure, and spoken expression.</p> <p>Progression and Golden Thread: Students acquire core knowledge of GCSE set texts, language forms, and assessment structures. This underpins the development of analytical, comparative, and narrative writing skills. Students begin to apply their knowledge purposefully through structured written responses and oral communication aligned to national expectations.</p>	<p>Unit 1: Component 2 Language – Comparing Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing Key Themes: Comparing and evaluating non-fiction, language analysis, different text types. Rationale: Extends language analysis to non-fiction and transactional texts, building upon earlier reading and analysis skills. Fast Read: Blood Brothers</p> <p>Unit 2: Blood Brothers Key Themes: Social and historical context, genre features of a play, characterisation. Rationale: Integrates understanding of socio-historical context and genre features, focusing on drama.</p> <p>Unit 3: Unseen Poetry Key Themes: Analysing unseen poetry, poetic analysis skills. Rationale: Advances analytical skills, focusing on applying them to unseen poetry, a critical aspect of the GCSE</p> <p>Unit 4: Poetry Anthology Key Themes: Poetic structure, theme, voice, language and context Rationale: Introduces a range of poems with varied themes and contexts; builds comparative and analytical skills across texts</p> <p>Unit 5: Revision Block Key Focus: Comprehensive revision and consolidation of all studied literary and language skills. Rationale: The culmination of the GCSE curriculum, integrating and reinforcing all knowledge and skills for successful examination performance.</p> <p>Progression and Golden Thread: Students consolidate their literary and linguistic knowledge to refine exam-ready skills. Through focused revision and practice, they apply their understanding of texts, form, and context in analytical writing, comparison, and unseen response. The emphasis is on confident, precise, and independent expression across all components.</p>
	TERM 2					
	TERM 3					

Cultural capital: The English curriculum at Christ the King Catholic High School significantly boosts students' cultural capital. By exploring diverse literary themes and analysing various texts, students deepen their understanding of literature and broaden their cultural perspectives. The alignment with the Eduqas GCSE syllabus ensures exposure to relevant material, empowering them with cultural competence for academic success. This curriculum equips students with a well-rounded cultural understanding, preparing them for meaningful engagement in a global society.

Extra-curricular: The English Department offers a wide array of enriching extra-curricular opportunities, including author visits, theatre trips, writing competitions, and literacy initiatives. Through a progressive curriculum and engaging workshops, the department ensures students are well-prepared for future studies and employment by fostering independent learning and a strong grasp of language and critical thinking.

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ENRICHMENT & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

CAREERS EDUCATION

YEAR 7	<p>In Year 7, we ignite the love for reading with our Book Buzz launch. Students have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of titles, ensuring there's something for everyone. Each Book Buzz student can select a book to take home and keep.</p> <p>In Key Stage 3, students engage in a variety of enriching activities to enhance their literacy skills and foster a love for reading and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Activities and Book Clubs: Year 7 students are encouraged to participate in various reading activities and join Book Clubs. These initiatives are designed to nurture their interest in reading and help them discover new literary genres and authors. • Young Writers Students have the opportunity to express themselves creatively by participating in competitions. It provides a platform for them to showcase their writing talents. • Media Literacy and Fake News: In Year 8, students delve into the world of media literacy. They study the concept of fake news and learn to critically analyse information. Using iPads, they create their own news reports, which helps them develop essential media skills and a deeper understanding of journalism. • Author Visits: To inspire a deeper appreciation for literature, we arrange engaging visits from authors like Tom Palmer. These interactions provide students with insights into the writing process and encourage a lifelong love of reading. <p>Overall, these activities are designed to enrich the students' educational experience and support their development as confident, thoughtful readers and writers.</p>	<p>Students read a range of gothic texts and may be inspired to become a novelist or literary critic.</p> <p>Whilst reading 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and re-enacting key scenes, students may decide a career in acting, directing or the media enthruses them.</p> <p>Students study units on rhetoric and speech writing. These units link specifically to careers in marketing and advertising.</p>
YEAR 8	<p>• Young Writers Students have the opportunity to express themselves creatively by participating in competitions. It provides a platform for them to showcase their writing talents.</p> <p>• Media Literacy and Fake News: In Year 8, students delve into the world of media literacy. They study the concept of fake news and learn to critically analyse information. Using iPads, they create their own news reports, which helps them develop essential media skills and a deeper understanding of journalism.</p> <p>• Author Visits: To inspire a deeper appreciation for literature, we arrange engaging visits from authors like Tom Palmer. These interactions provide students with insights into the writing process and encourage a lifelong love of reading.</p>	<p>Students are exposed to a range of texts and explore their different purposes, audiences, formats and genres. This links to career paths such as journalism when writing articles and reading blogs.</p> <p>Whilst reading 'Macbeth' and re-enacting key scenes, students may decide a career in acting, directing or the media enthruses them.</p>
YEAR 9	<p>Overall, these activities are designed to enrich the students' educational experience and support their development as confident, thoughtful readers and writers.</p>	<p>Students explore a range of powerful speech and societal issues. They critique how people have been treated (past and present). This unit links to careers in law, activism and politics.</p>
YEAR 10	<p>Year 10 students receive specialised training on becoming Reading Buddies for younger students with lower reading ages. This initiative not only enhances their own reading skills but also fosters a sense of responsibility and mentorship. They are encouraged to actively participate in Book Clubs and continue enjoying literature.</p>	<p>Students study one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, 'Romeo and Juliet'. By reading and performing key scenes, students may consider careers in the arts such as a director, actor or playwright.</p> <p>Whilst studying non-fiction units, students may consider careers in journalism, media research, public relations, and social media.</p> <p>Students are exposed to a range of non-fiction reading and writing. These English language units may inspire students to consider careers in advertising, blogging, journalism or travel writing.</p>
YEAR 11	<p>For Year 11 students, we offer valuable college workshops to prepare them for the next phase of their education and career journey. These workshops cover essential skills like CV writing, job applications, and personal statements, ensuring they are well-equipped for the transition to further study or employment. Our comprehensive English curriculum and focus on independent learning create students who are fully prepared for the wider world.</p> <p>Beyond the classroom, students benefit from theatre trips to watch plays like "Blood Brothers" and "A Christmas Carol," enhancing their understanding of storytelling in different forms.</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to critically evaluate a novel, to critique society through reading non-fiction texts and to compare varying viewpoints and perspectives on key societal issues. Students explore the implications of the class system in Britain (Blood Brothers) and examine relationships within families and beyond.</p> <p>Students explore a range of issues within the GCSE set texts they are studying. Whilst reading 'A Christmas Carol', students may consider working for charitable organisations or a career in politics. students may be inspired to become novelists, poets, playwrights or actors.</p> <p>Students are exposed to a range of non-fiction texts and writing. These units may inspire students to consider careers in advertising, blogging, journalism and travel writing.</p>
LITERACY & NUMERACY	<p>At Christ the King Catholic High School, our English curriculum nurtures essential literacy skills - reading, writing and oracy starting in Key Stage 3. We immerse students in diverse texts to foster critical reading and discussions, explicitly teaching reading skills and vocabulary with a focus on skimming and scanning.</p> <p>Beyond the classroom, students enjoy author visits, theatre trips, writing competitions, and national literacy initiatives. Integrated numeracy supports student confidence for final exams. Our curriculum empowers students as skilled readers, writers and critical thinkers, preparing them for future studies and employment.</p>	<p>CATHOLIC ETHOS</p> <p>At Christ the King, our English curriculum is thoughtfully designed to cater to the diverse needs of our students, embracing the Catholic ethos. Through the study of English language and literature, we aim to foster expressive readers, creative writers, and effective communicators, aligning with our commitment to a well-rounded education.</p> <p>Our inclusive approach ensures flexibility and high expectations for all, recognising the unique value of English education in exploring diverse perspectives while staying true to our Catholic identity.</p>