

# Christ the King Catholic High School: English – Curriculum Overview 2023 - 2024



## KEY STAGE 2

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.

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.

In terms of writing, students should be able to quickly jot down their ideas, exhibiting broad accuracy and ambition in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

For those struggling with decoding skills, a rigorous and systematic phonics programme is crucial for swift improvement – See Learning and Life Skills Curriculum Map.

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.

TERM 1

TERM 2

TERM 3

## YEAR 7

### 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.

### Unit 2: 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.

### Unit 3: 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.

### Unit 4: Novel Study - "Trash" by Andy Mulligan

**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.

### Unit 5: Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

**Key Themes:** Shakespearean literature, character analysis, themes of love and dreams, language analysis, literary traditions.  
**Rationale:** Culmination of skills and concepts, understanding Shakespearean works, enhancing knowledge of literary aspects.

### Progression and Golden Thread:

The Year 7 English curriculum employs a progressive approach, strengthening language skills, critical analysis, and creative expression with each term. This gradual development forms a golden thread, preparing students for advanced literary analysis and creativity in subsequent years. The curriculum ensures a cohesive learning journey, guiding students from descriptive writing to persuasive language, poetry exploration, novel analysis, and an introduction to classical literature. This foundational progression sets the stage for future academic success and a deeper appreciation of literature.

## YEAR 8

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Unit 4: Argumentative Writing

**Key Themes:** Constructing well-reasoned arguments, balanced and unbalanced arguments, tone, language for effect, counterarguments, persuasive writing techniques.  
**Rationale:** Builds upon persuasive writing skills from Year 7, emphasising structured arguments, critical evaluation, and considering multiple perspectives.

### Unit 5: 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.

### Progression and Golden Thread:

The golden thread in Year 8 English is a seamless progression of critical thinking and literary skills, building on Year 7's foundations. It advances through social issues, allegorical literature, media analysis, Shakespearean works, and persuasive writing. The thread intertwines critical analysis, creativity, and language mastery, preparing students for academic success and an enduring appreciation for language.

## YEAR 9

### Unit 1: 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.

### Unit 2: 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.

### 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.

### 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, and preparing for Key Stage 4 poetry studies.

### Unit 5: Spoken Language (Bridging Unit)

**Key Themes:** Persuasive language, historical speeches, speech structure, rhetoric, self-assessment, peer feedback, public speaking.  
**Rationale:** Serves as a bridge to Key Stage 4, refining speech writing and public speaking, aligning with GCSE spoken language components, emphasising critical analysis and effective communication.

### Progression and Golden Thread:

The Year 9 English golden thread is a journey of deepening analysis and effective communication. Starting with power and social justice exploration, students' progress to dissect historical speeches, refining persuasive writing and speaking. Evaluating non-fiction across eras sharpens critical reading, while studying war poetry hones analytical and comparative skills. Culminating in a Key Stage 4 bridge, it emphasises self-assessment, peer feedback, and alignment with GCSE components. This cohesive progression prepares students for advanced literary studies and articulate expression of ideas.

## YEAR 10

### 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, emphasizing tragic genre and poetic form.

### 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.

### Unit 3: Poetry Anthology

**Key Themes:** Poetic form, literary heritage, society, Romantics.  
**Rationale:** Deepens analysis of poetic structure and societal contexts, continuing from Year 9.

### Unit 4: Component 1 Language - Reading Fiction & Narrative Writing

**Key Themes:** Language analysis, narrative techniques, subject terminology, reading comprehension.  
**Rationale:** Advances language analysis and comprehension skills, building upon prior understanding of literary devices.

### Unit 5: Poetry Anthology

**Key Themes:** Poetic form, literary heritage, society, Romantics.  
**Rationale:** Reinforces understanding of poetic structure and its societal impact from earlier in the year.

### Progression and Golden Thread:

The golden thread in the English curriculum unfolds through progressive theme exploration, elevating complexity and critical analysis each term. Students continuously refine their analytical skills, transitioning from grasping literary structures to profound literary analysis and language assessment. The integration of reading, analysis, and writing skills is central, with each term spotlighting distinct aspects while assimilating insights from prior terms. Significantly, the Year 10 curriculum meticulously lays the foundation, strategically preparing students for the rigorous demands of GCSE English in alignment with the Eduqas GCSE syllabus.

## YEAR 11

### 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.

### 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.

### Unit 3: Poetry Anthology

**Key Themes:** Poetic form, literary heritage, societal themes, Romantics.  
**Rationale:** Reinforces analysis of poetic structure and societal context, building upon earlier exploration of poetry.

### Unit 4: English Literature: 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.

### 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.

### Progression and Golden Thread:

Every term consolidates reading, analysis and writing skills, steadily honing them to meet GCSE exam expectations. Analysis evolves in complexity, progressing from comprehension of literary forms to their nuanced evaluation in various settings. The Year 11 curriculum closely mirrors the Eduqas GCSE syllabus, meticulously preparing students for their upcoming exams. The last term prioritises thorough revision, equipping students to solidify their knowledge and approach the GCSEs with assurance.

**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.



**Christ the King Catholic High School: English Department - Curriculum Overview 2023 - 2024**

**ENRICHMENT & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**CAREERS EDUCATION**

<p><b>YEAR 7</b></p>	<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. Additionally, Year 7 students participate in reading activities and are encouraged to join Book Clubs to further nurture their reading interests. Students also participate in the Young Writers 'This is ME' poetry competition, giving them a chance to express themselves through the art of poetry.</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>	
<p><b>YEAR 8</b></p>	<p>Year 8 students delve into the world of media literacy as they study fake news and create their own news reports using iPads. We also arrange for engaging author visits, such as Tom Palmer, to inspire a deeper appreciation for literature.</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>	
<p><b>YEAR 9</b></p>	<p>Students participate in the Young Writers 'This is ME' poetry competition, giving them a chance to express themselves through the art of poetry.</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>	
<p><b>YEAR 10</b></p>	<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>	
<p><b>YEAR 11</b></p>	<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. 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>	
<p><b>LITERACY &amp; NUMERACY</b></p>	<p>At Christ the King Catholic High School, our English curriculum is designed to nurture essential literacy skills, including reading, writing, and oracy. This approach begins at Key Stage 3, where we immerse students in diverse texts, fostering critical reading and meaningful discussions. We explicitly teach reading skills and vocabulary enrichment, with a focus on skimming and scanning. Beyond the classroom, our curriculum offers experiences such as author visits, theatre trips, writing competitions, and national literacy initiatives. Numeracy is integrated to support student confidence and success in final examinations. Our curriculum aims to empower students as skilled readers, writers, and critical thinkers, ensuring they are fully prepared for future study and employment.</p>	<p><b>CATHOLIC ETHOS</b></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. 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>