

English Curriculum Vision, Aims and Overview

At Harefield School, our English curriculum aims to cultivate students who are curious, articulate, empathetic, and resilient; learners who value literature and language as essential tools for understanding themselves, others, and the world. We aim to prepare students not only for success in GCSE English Language and Literature but also to empower them with the literacy skills necessary for future academic, social, and professional success.

At Harefield School, our English curriculum builds purposefully on the knowledge and skills developed at Key Stage 2, in line with the aims of the National Curriculum. Students encounter a broad selection of literature and media across historical periods, genres, voices, and cultures. This enables them to consolidate prior knowledge, extend interpretive and evaluative capabilities, and explore how language, structure, and form create meaning. They consider authorial intent and the relationship between texts and their social, historical, and cultural contexts. Through this, students become discerning readers, capable writers, and articulate speakers, equipped for the rigour of GCSE assessments, post-16 study, and lifelong engagement with ideas.

The curriculum is enriched with inclusive and engaging activities; debates, presentations, role-play, performance, and collaborative tasks that promote confident communication, critical thinking, and creativity. Support for all learners, including those with additional needs and EAL students, ensures meaningful access to texts. A consistent focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar (SPaG), vocabulary, and reading fluency strengthens foundational literacy and enables students to apply these skills in increasingly complex contexts.

Key Aims of English at Harefield School

- **Developing critical thinking** and enquiry by analysing, evaluating, and making decisions through multiple perspectives.
- **Enhancing appreciation of literature and language** by exploring diverse texts to foster curiosity, empathy, and cultural awareness.
- **Encouraging independent and creative thinking** by promoting originality, problem-solving, and personal interpretations.
- **Strengthening effective communication** by cultivating articulate speakers and writers who express ideas with clarity and confidence in Standard English.
- **Ensuring progression and preparation** by consolidating knowledge at KS3, extending it at KS4, and equipping learners for GCSE success, further study, and lifelong literacy.

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

<p>Autumn 1</p>	<p>Boy in Striped Pyjamas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conventions of a Novel ● Characterisation ● Effect of Language and Structural Techniques ● Contextual Influences ● Themes and Ideas ● Moral and Life Lessons ● Setting ● Writer's Craft and Purpose ● Creative Responses to Literature ● Dramatic Interpretations / Role Play ● Critical Thinking Skills ● Vocabulary Development 	<p>Animal Farm- George Orwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore key features of prose ● Analyse Orwell's use of language and structure ● The importance of AF as an allegory ● Historical/political context: Russian Revolution, Stalin, Trotsky, WW2. ● Key themes of power, corruption, and control. ● The role of satire and allegory in themes ● Writing clear analytical responses ● Produce creative non-fiction (e.g. propaganda-style newspaper articles). ● Embed contextual links (AO3) in analysis. ● Research modern views on power, equality ● Group discussions and presentations. ● Debate key themes 	<p>Poetry in Motion Anthology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction and Recap – revisiting poetic forms from Years 7 and 8 ● Structural Elements of Poetry ● Advanced Language and Structural Devices ● Tone, Mood, and Meaning ● Imagery, Symbolism, and Metaphor ● Thematic Exploration ● Comparing Poetry ● Critical Evaluation ● Analytical Essay Writing ● Creative Responses to Poetry ● Developing Writing Skills ● Oral Exploration and Discussion ● Performance of Poetry ● Oracy Development 	<p>Macbeth- William Shakespeare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definition of a tragedy ● Conventions of Shakespearean tragedy ● Character Analysis ● Thematic issue ● Character foils and their role in driving the plot ● Soliloquies and asides ● Foreshadowing and dramatic irony ● Motifs and recurring symbols ● Contextual Influences ● Cultural, religious, and political influences on Shakespeare ● Audience Response ● Key terms linked to Shakespearean tragedy 	<p>Power and Conflict Part 2 (9-15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key themes (power, identity, conflict, war, love, family, migration, nature) ● Historical, political, and cultural contexts ● Perspectives and their impact ● Poetic form, structure, and language choices ● Effect of writers' language choices ● Comparing and contrasting poems ● Application of different critical lenses ● Comparing texts ● Summarising explicit & implicit information ● Analysing language and methods ● Structural analysis ● Evaluating viewpoints and perspectives ● Selecting & synthesising evidence effectively ● Writing to present a viewpoint ● Using rhetorical devices effectively
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<p>Autumn 2</p>	<p>War poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elements of poetry ● Forms of poetry ● Thematic exploration ● Language and structural techniques in poetry ● Imagery and symbolism in poetry ● Writer's purpose and message ● Historical and cultural contexts ● Poetic conventions and their effects ● Word choice and precision in poetry ● Connections between poetry and contemporary issues ● Creative writing inspired by poetry 	<p>Poems from Different Cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conventions of poetry ● Introduction to various forms of poetry ● How form influences meaning and style ● Titles, persona, and narrative perspective ● Rhyme, rhythm, metre, and free verse patterns ● Use of figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, etc.) ● How poets create tone, mood, and atmosphere ● Structural devices such as enjambment, caesura, stanzas, and repetition ● Identifying and interpreting imagery and symbolism ● Exploring diverse cultural voices and perspectives in poetry ● Cultural, historical, and social influences ● Poets' aims, messages, and intentions ● Exploring themes 	<p>A Christmas Carol- Charles Dickens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Victorian Social Context ● Understanding the Morality Tale ● Historical and Cultural Context ● Literary Devices and Structural Techniques ● Themes in Depth- Redemption and transformation ● Characterisation ● Analysis of main and minor characters as symbols of societal ideas ● Shaping Reader Response- Tone, emotional engagement, and moral messaging ● How Dickens evokes sympathy, reflection, and ethical consideration ● Analytical Writing Skills- Writing clearly and confidently about themes, characters, and writer's methods ● Embedding evidence ● Linking Victorian themes to contemporary morals ● Oral Expression and Discussion ● Debating moral issues raised by the text 	<p>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde- R.L Stevenson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mystery, secrecy, and suspense ● Isolation and fear ● Grotesque villains and the motif of the divided self ● Character Analysis ● Character archetypes: hero, hero-villain, damsel in distress (if applicable) ● Portrayal of Victorian society: fear, injustice, repression ● Duality of man and good vs. evil ● Science vs. religion ● Contextual and Cultural Influences ● Narrative Techniques ● Unreliable narration and multiple perspectives ● Morality and Society ● Terminology and Gothic Conventions 	<p>An Inspector Calls- J.B. Priestley</p> <p>Revision of Language Paper 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conventions of a modern play ● Priestley's use of irony ● Character presentation ● Effect of setting ● Language, form, and structure ● Socialism and capitalism ● The role of societal hierarchy ● Thematic ideas ● Author's message ● Analysing unseen prose extracts for language and structure ● Descriptive and narrative writing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mystery, secrecy, and suspense ● Isolation and fear ● Grotesque villains and the motif of the divided self ● Character Analysis ● Character archetypes: hero, hero-villain, damsel in distress (if applicable) ● Portrayal of Victorian society: fear, injustice, repression ● Duality of man and good vs. evil ● Science vs. religion ● Contextual and Cultural Influences ● Narrative Techniques ● Unreliable narration and multiple perspectives ● Morality and Society 				

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terminology and Gothic Conventions 	
Spring 1	<p>Detective fiction- Reading and Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conventions of detective fiction ● Language, structure, and form in detective fiction across time periods ● Explicit and implicit information ● Characterisation ● The role of setting ● Writing descriptive and narrative texts ● Structuring writing for effect ● Accurate grammar, punctuation, and varied vocabulary ● Sensory description in writing ● Organising writing logically to build mystery and suspense ● Oral storytelling and performance to develop confidence and creativity 	<p>Romeo and Juliet-William Shakespeare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shakespearean tragedy? ● Tragic hero/ heroine ● Fate vs free will ● Catharsis and the inevitability of downfall. ● Presentation of characters through dialogue, soliloquies, stagecraft, etc. ● Key techniques: foreshadowing, dramatic irony, metaphor, oxymoron. ● Imagery of light/dark, love/violence. ● The effect of Shakespeare’s language on the audience. ● Prologue as foreshadowing. ● Marriage and patriarchy in Elizabethan England. ● Family honour and loyalty ● Gender roles and expectations of youth. ● How Shakespeare defies audience expectations 	<p>Blood Brothers-Willy Russell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Modern Drama ● Key elements: exposition, plot, rising action, climax, conflict, protagonist/antagonist ● Dramatic devices ● Dramatic Irony and Audience Engagement ● Effects on tension, suspense, and audience response ● Historical and Cultural Context ● Late 20th-century Britain ● Margaret Thatcher’s policies and their impact ● Social issues ● Characters as individuals and as symbols of society ● Analysis of key relationships ● Thematic Exploration ● Language, Structure, and Stagecraft ● Playwright’s Intentions ● Analytical Writing Skills ● Comparative and Reflective Thinking ● Oral Expression and Discussion 	<p>English Language Paper 1- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explicit & implicit information retrieval ● Embedding quotes ● Synthesis of evidence ● Language analysis ● Subject terminology ● Structural analysis ● Evaluation & critical response ● Descriptive writing ● Narrative writing ● Style & register (adapting tone, style, purpose, audience) ● Technical accuracy torian contexts 	<p>Literature Revision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-depth revision of all key aspects of: English Literature – Paper 1 (Shakespeare & 19th-Century Prose) and English Literature – Paper 2 (Modern Texts, Poetry, Unseen Poetry)
Spring 2	<p>Reading and Writing and Non-Fiction</p>		<p>Reading and Writing about Fiction: A Study of Dystopian Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Dystopian Literature ● Key features: oppressive control, fear, propaganda, surveillance, loss of individuality ● Themes: rebellion, resistance, freedom vs control ● Settings: bleak, ruined, futuristic, or unfamiliar landscapes ● Reading and Comprehension Skills ● Social Commentary and Real- 	<p>English Language Paper 2- Writers’ viewpoints and perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comparing non- fiction texts ● Summarising explicit & implicit information ● Analysing language and methods ● Structural analysis of arguments 	<p>Language Revision Mock Examination</p> <p>In-depth revision of all key aspects of: English Language – Paper 1 (Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing) and English Language – Paper 2 (Writers’ Viewpoints & Perspectives)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Differences between fiction and non-fiction writing ● Audience awareness and purpose in non-fiction texts ● Techniques used in non-fiction writing ● Sentence structures for persuasion and impact ● Writing forms ● Structural features of non-fiction ● Conventions and features of various non-fiction forms ● Research skills to support writing ● Writing fluently with accurate grammar, structure, and varied vocabulary ● Producing writing suited to specific audiences and purposes 		<p>World Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Characterisation in Dystopias ● Language and Stylistic Techniques- Semantic fields: decay, fear, oppression ● Figurative language: oxymoron, paradox, pun, allusion, euphemism ● Tone and atmosphere building ● Structural Techniques ● Setting and World-Building ● Dystopian Tropes and Themes ● Writing Skills and Genre Practice ● Examining how language, structure, and literary devices create meaning ● Evaluating authorial intent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluating viewpoints and perspectives ● Selecting & synthesising evidence effectively ● Writing to present a viewpoint (persuade, argue, advise, inform, explain) ● Crafting introductions & conclusions ● Using rhetorical devices ● Balancing formality & tone for audience/purpose ● Organising arguments logically with cohesive devices ● Vocabulary range, sentence variety & emphasis techniques ● SPaG 	
Summer 1	<p><i>A Midsummer Night's Dream- William Shakespeare</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An introduction to Shakespearean tragedy ● Connections between characters, main plots, and sub-plots intertwine. ● The role of stage directions ● Identify humour, wordplay, and malapropisms. ● Shakespeare's use of poetic devices, imagery, and symbolism ● Thematic concerns: Love, marriage, and gender roles, conflict, etc. ● The playwright's overarching message about human nature, love, power, and society. ● Contextual links: Perceptions of women and expectations of marriage, class, magic, fairies, and the supernatural. 	<p><i>Reading and Writing about Non-Fiction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Non-fiction ● Retrieving Information – explicit and implicit meaning. ● Comparing Viewpoints ● Language and Structure ● Evaluating Purpose & Effectiveness ● Tone, Register, and Perspective ● Summarising & Selecting Evidence ● Crafting Non-fiction ● Magazine Articles and Editorials ● Persuasive, Advisory and Informative Writing 	<p><i>Non-Fiction for Different Purposes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Non-Fiction Modes and Forms, Tone ● Reading and Analysis of Non-Fiction ● Organisational Structures in Non-Fiction ● Writer's Craft and Techniques ● Evaluating the effectiveness of language and structure ● Synthesis and Evaluation Skills ● Writing to Inform, Persuade, and Argue ● Developing clear thesis statements and logical arguments ● Rhetorical and Stylistic Devices ● Technical and Structural Accuracy ● Sentence variety, ambitious vocabulary, and sophisticated punctuation 	<p><i>Power and Conflict Anthology Part 1 (1-8) Unseen Poetry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elements of poetry ● Key themes (power, identity, conflict, war, love, family, migration, nature). ● Historical, political, and cultural contexts ● Perspectives and their impact ● Poetic form, structure, and language choices ● Effect of writers' language choices ● Comparing and contrasting poems ● Application of different critical lenses ● Practice close reading of unseen poetry. 	External Examination
Summer 2	<p><i>Speaking and Listening</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identifying what makes a speech powerful 	<p><i>Speaking and listening</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploration of Speeches and Spoken Performances 	<p><i>Speaking and Listening</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spoken Communication ● Exploring the purposes and impact 	<p><i>Mock Revision Mock Examination Speaking and Listening</i></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploring great speeches ● How language persuades and inspires ● Analysing delivery ● Using ethos, pathos, and logos ● Writing short speeches for different purposes: persuasive ● Structuring a speech ● Practising rhetorical devices ● Rehearsing for performance ● Presenting to an audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audience Engagement. ● Features of Impactful Speeches ● Famous Speeches/ Case Studies as exemplars ● Language, Tone, and Delivery ● Non-verbal Communication ● Introduction to Rhetoric – ethos, pathos, logos. ● Writing Speeches ● Structure and Technique ● Performing Speeches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analysing a Range of Spoken Texts ● Traditional and contemporary examples ● Rhetorical Appeals and Devices ● Ethos (credibility), Pathos (emotion), Logos (logic) ● Rhetorical techniques ● Speech Structure and Techniques ● Compelling openings, logical sequencing of ideas, strategic repetition, impactful endings ● Planning and Writing Speeches ● Delivery and Performance Skills ● Evaluation and Reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spoken Language Endorsement Presentation ● Revise in detail: Macbeth, Jekyll and Hyde, Language Paper 1-section A and B 	
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