



Curriculum Overview: English Year group 9

What your child will learn each half term

This overview shows the key topics, skills, and knowledge your child will be learning in **English** in **Year 9**. It helps families understand what's being taught, how it builds on previous learning, and how you can support your child at home.

- **What we are learning:** The topic or focus for the half term.
- **Key knowledge & skills:** What students should understand and be able to do.
- **How we assess learning:** knowledge checks, practical tasks, written responses and formal assessments.
- **Key words to know:** Vocabulary students will learn and use.

Half term	What we are learning	Key knowledge and skills	How we will assess learning in this unit	Homework	Key vocabulary for this unit
HT 1 4 weeks	Shakespeare's Soliloquies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand soliloquies and how Shakespeare presents villainy through Lady Macbeth, Richard III, and Iago. • Explore villains, character development, and how context shapes language and theme. • Evaluate writers' purposes and messages, and compare texts, themes, and characters. • Analyse texts by selecting quotations, interpreting meanings, and applying literary terminology. • Write clearly and effectively, using precise vocabulary, varied sentences, punctuation, and style 	<p>Knowledge check on key vocabulary, Shakespearean characters, and language analysis.</p> <p>Short written task on reading responses.</p> <p>Longer written task on how Shakespeare presents a character in a soliloquy.</p>	<p>1 x 60 minutes reading per week.</p> <p>1 x writing, vocabulary, or knowledge recall task.</p> <p>To be completed in homework booklets.</p>	<p>Soliloquy</p> <p>Debunk</p> <p>Patriarchy</p> <p>Iambic Pentameter</p> <p>Blank verse</p> <p>Thee</p> <p>Thy</p> <p>Art</p> <p>Hath</p> <p>Doth</p>
HT 1 4 weeks	Rhetoric & Spoken Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate writers' purposes, messages, and compare texts, themes, and characters. • Analyse texts, selecting quotations, interpreting meanings, and applying literary and rhetorical terminology. • Write clearly, using precise vocabulary, varied sentences, punctuation, and style. • Understand rhetoric and its use in speeches, transactional writing, and non-fiction across time. • Recognise conventions of non-fiction and representations of prejudice and powerful speakers. • Develop skills in skimming, scanning, annotation, and synthesis. • Compare ideas, viewpoints, and rhetorical techniques across texts. • Apply rhetorical strategies (repetition, emotive language, ethos, logos, pathos) in writing and speech. • Speak and listen confidently, using voice, body language, structure, and critical reasoning in discussions 	<p>Knowledge check on key vocabulary, terminology and language devices.</p> <p>Short written task on how rhetorical devices are used.</p> <p>Short written task demonstrating use of rhetorical devices.</p> <p>Spoken language poetry performance for Poetry by Heart.</p>	<p>1 x 60 minutes reading per week.</p> <p>1 x writing, vocabulary, or knowledge recall task.</p> <p>To be completed in homework booklets.</p>	<p>Rhetoric</p> <p>Ethos</p> <p>Pathos</p> <p>Logos</p> <p>Justification</p> <p>Advocate</p> <p>Diverse</p> <p>Ideology</p> <p>Transactional</p> <p>Persuasive</p>

HT 2 & 3	Pigeon English	<p>Seminal world literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student will know how literature offers insight into other worlds, cultures, and experiences. • Explore the links between fiction and real-life issues, tracking themes such as innocence, home, culture, identity, and violence. • Explain the writers' messages and intentions and interpret character development in relation to structure and purpose. • Analyse how form, structure, and literary techniques create meaning and multiple layers of interpretation. • Link language, character, and theme to social and cultural context, developing empathy and personal responses. • Read texts, selecting and analysing quotations, exploring word-level meaning, and interpreting implicit messages. • Write analytical responses with clear argument, precise vocabulary, cohesion, varied sentence structures, and accurate punctuation. • Speak and listen confidently, presenting ideas clearly, asking questions, responding thoughtfully, and contributing respectfully in discussions. 	<p>Knowledge check on key vocabulary, characters, and events in the novel.</p> <p>Short written task on character presentation and themes within the novel.</p> <p>Longer written task on the character of Harrison and how he is presented throughout the novel.</p> <p>Spoken language assessment in groups of three.</p>	<p>1 x 60 minutes reading per week.</p> <p>1 x writing, vocabulary, or knowledge recall task.</p> <p>To be completed in homework booklets.</p>	<p>Decipher</p> <p>Authority</p> <p>Context</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>Exemplify</p> <p>Implications</p> <p>Perspective</p> <p>Turbulent</p> <p>Juxtaposes</p> <p>Foreshadows</p>
4	Short Story Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a wide range of punctuation accurately, including dashes, ellipses, semi-colons, and colons, to create effect and clarity. • Control complex sentence structures, shift accurately between active and passive voice, and maintain consistent tense. • Vary sentence openings to suit the audience and purpose. • Choose words purposefully, including using rhetorical strategies like repetition, emotive language, and appeals to ethos, logos, and pathos. • Apply "Show, Not Tell" techniques, using actions, thoughts, sensory details, and feelings to build tension and implication. 	<p>Knowledge checks on characters, events, and writer's techniques.</p> <p>Shorter and longer writing tasks producing parts of/whole short narratives.</p>	<p>1 x 60 minutes reading per week.</p> <p>1 x writing, vocabulary, or knowledge recall task.</p> <p>To be completed in homework booklets.</p>	<p>Narrative</p> <p>Exposition</p> <p>Denouement</p> <p>Climax</p> <p>Pivotal</p> <p>Accentuate</p> <p>Personification</p> <p>Dialogue</p> <p>Chronology</p> <p>Hyperbole</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine vocabulary for precision and impact, revising structure and content to enhance characterisation and effect. • Edit and redraft work to improve clarity, structure, and overall impact. • Use a sophisticated variety of sentence constructions, adapting content to meet the audience and purpose of the task. 			
5 & 6	Blood Brothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse literature using subject-specific terminology, linking responses to context, word-level meaning, and the effect of writers' techniques. • Write detailed Stage Three analysis paragraphs that explore technique, meaning, and context. • Write analytical paragraphs about extracts using technical terms accurately. • Track character development, relationships, and key themes across a play. • Analyse how stagecraft, dialogue, soliloquies, and stage directions create meaning and effect for the audience. • Explore dramatic conventions such as tension, conflict, and climax in the structure of a play. • Consider how context (historical, cultural, or social) influences characters, themes, and language. • Compare characters, themes, and ideas across different parts of the play. • Develop evaluation and inference skills, interpreting both explicit and implicit meanings in dialogue and action. • Use a range of reading strategies, including skimming, scanning, and annotating, to retrieve and explore evidence. 	<p>Knowledge checks on key vocabulary, and writer's techniques.</p> <p>Formal group spoken language presentation.</p> <p>Shorter and longer reading responses on gothic conventions.</p> <p>Written creative writing responses.</p>	<p>1 x 60 minutes reading per week.</p> <p>1 x writing, vocabulary, or knowledge recall task.</p> <p>To be completed in homework booklets.</p>	<p>Prologue</p> <p>narrator</p> <p>motif</p> <p>Tragedy</p> <p>colloquial</p> <p>formal</p> <p>foreshadowing</p> <p>monologue</p> <p>fate</p> <p>free will</p>