

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW **KS3 English**

Purpose of the Curriculum

The purpose of the Key Stage 3 curriculum is to provide students with a **broad** and **engaging** English curriculum with lots of opportunities to explore different aspects of English, not just those that are assessed in the GCSE exam. Pupils will be learning essential skills from 'day one' in English with a keen focus on **technical accuracy** in all aspects of the curriculum. We aim for the curriculum to be **challenging, accessible** and **engaging for all** and should introduce students to a **variety** of activities, concepts and assessments in English. We will focus on introducing students to the conventions of the writing of various time periods (e.g. 19th Century). The purpose of the curriculum is to give students an understanding of not only the English concepts we teach (persuasive writing, narratives, reading skills...) but also the contexts/time periods in question. The curriculum aims to provide students with the opportunity to succeed in reading, writing, speaking and listening. We aim to foster a genuine intrigue, creativity and love of English at KS3.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

We want students to learn about the **contexts/time periods** we teach. E.g. Shakespeare's world / the roles of men and women.

We want students to learn how to **adapt** their speaking and writing form, register and purpose for different audiences and situations in the real world.

We want students to be able to **read for pleasure**, whilst understanding what they read and developing empathy for characters and following deeper ideas in texts.

We want students to have an **appreciation** of the writer's craft and to begin to make informed comments on the way a text is put together and therefore be able to comment on its effectiveness. This will ultimately turn into a personal, critical response to a text.

We want our students to be **capable** of reading, responding to and writing high quality texts. They need to be adaptable.

Assessments will be **varied**: Socratic tests for knowledge of key periods (e.g. Elizabethan England), a variety of writing tasks that will also encompass reading skills and demonstrate understanding of a text. E.g. writing from the perspective of a character. S&L assessments in groups, as individuals, hot-seating. Essay writing skills will develop but this will not be the main focus at KS3. We will do a variety of writing styles, including: recount writing, descriptive writing, poetry writing etc...

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW (KS3 English)

KEY CONCEPTS

Grammar/basic skills. These will be assessed from Year 7 with the introductory tasks. This will run through the whole course.

Ability to **understand** different **contexts/time periods** and how they influence the writing.

Reading assessed using various reading tasks throughout the course. Reading also assessed using Accelerated Reader. The challenge of the texts we read will increase through the Key Stage and so the children's reading ability must also increase.

To expose students to a breadth of the literary canon and foster their enjoyment, appreciation and comprehension of key texts.

SEQUENCE OF LEARNING

We wish to take our students on a literary journey. First is a focus on creative writing with a massive emphasis on technical accuracy, creativity and understanding conventions of the writing styles taught. This sets the students up for the rest of the course as it should get them into good habits and give them a model for what is to come. Next will be research into the context of Elizabethan/Jacobean England for a unit on Shakespeare. Getting a good understanding of this context is vital for students' cultural capital as well as their future study of Shakespeare and other texts. Throughout these units, students will work on developing their ability to pick out and analyse relevant details from a text and their ability to adapt to various forms of writing. Students will study speech writing as a short, separate unit before moving on to 19th Century texts. Again, we will develop knowledge and understanding of the 19th Century as a primary focus in this unit as this will develop their cultural capital and aid future study. In Year 8, students will study a full Shakespeare play with an emphasis on reading and enjoying the play, understanding the contexts and gaining an understanding of the characters and their emotions. At the same time, students will look at newspapers and how to construct articles for the real world. Gothic writing will be next, followed by a unit on poetry. The focus each time will be on understanding the conventions, contexts and being able to fully embed these ideas into their own writing.