

KS4 English - Yearly Overview - 2025–26

| | TOPIC | COMPONENT | <i>Notes: Why are you delivering this topic at this time of year?</i> |
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| Autumn 1 | Creative Writing – Expressing Ideas Through Storytelling | Key Focus: Descriptive writing, narrative structure, and imaginative expression. | .By the end of this module, learners will have explored a wide range of creative writing techniques, from descriptive language and dialogue to structuring engaging narratives. They will experiment with imagining new worlds, characters, and plots, developing their ability to express ideas clearly and vividly. Through drafting, revising, and sharing their stories, learners strengthen vocabulary, grammar, and overall language skills, while also building confidence, creativity, and the ability to communicate their thoughts in original and meaningful ways. |
| Autumn 2 | Storytelling Through Different Media – Books, Film, and Theatre | Key Focus: Multimodal storytelling, media analysis, and creative adaptation. | By the end of this unit, learners will have explored how stories change and adapt across books, film, and theatre. They will develop an understanding of narrative structure, character, and setting, while also learning how each medium uses unique tools—such as description in books, visuals in film, and performance in theatre—to engage an audience. Through creative adaptation tasks, learners will practise reshaping stories for different contexts, strengthening their imagination, analytical skills, and ability to communicate ideas in varied and powerful ways. |

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| Spring 1 | The Power of Words – Speeches and Persuasive Writing | Key Focus: Persuasive techniques, speech writing, confidence in spoken language. Ability to deconstruct a text in terms content and structure. | This module explores the power of language to inform, persuade, and inspire. Learners will study speeches (Donald Trump, Barak Obama) and persuasive texts (News articles, adverts), identifying key techniques such as rhetorical questions, repetition, and emotive language. They will practise writing their own speeches and persuasive pieces, while developing confidence in speaking aloud. By analysing content and structure, learners will improve their understanding of effective communication and learn how to engage and influence different audiences. |
| Spring 2 | Animals in Stories – Creatures with a Voice | Key Focus: Reading comprehension, descriptive writing, creative storytelling, and sensory language. | This module gives learners the chance to explore their creativity through storytelling, persuasive writing, and performance. By engaging with stories from books, films, and theatre, learners can develop their imagination, express their ideas in different ways, and build confidence in sharing their voice. The module supports key skills such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening, while also encouraging teamwork and self-expression. SEND learners benefit from a supportive and accessible approach that values individual strengths. By the end of the module, learners will have created original work they can be proud of and enjoyed the power of words. |
| Summer 1 | Mystery and Detectives | Key Focus: Understanding mystery, thrillers and crime, role-playing, visual storytelling, and character exploration. | This six-week module explores the exciting world of mystery and detectives. Learners will enjoy solving puzzles and uncovering clues through stories like <i>Sherlock Holmes</i> , <i>Scooby-Doo</i> , and <i>Agatha Christie</i> . The focus is on |

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| | | Examination of stories through (news, social media, TV, books, etc.) | clever storytelling, teamwork, and creative thinking, without fear or suspense. By inventing mystery characters, writing detective reports, and taking part in role-play, learners develop problem-solving, communication, and writing skills. It's a fun and imaginative way to build confidence and bring stories to life. |
| Summer 2 | Comedy – Telling Funny Stories | <p>Key Focus: Exploration of what we find funny, and why. The importance of target audience, tone and content. Explore comedy in different media (social media, TV, books, etc). Develop creative Ideas. Experiment with language. Build confidence. Engage with an audience.</p> | This unit helps learners explore humour through books, film, and theatre while developing their own funny stories. By understanding different types of comedy, learners practise creative thinking, language play, and storytelling skills in an enjoyable way. Working on jokes, characters, and sketches supports collaboration and builds confidence in sharing ideas. Comedy encourages imagination, problem-solving, and resilience, while making learning fun. Learners finish the unit with original writing and performances they can be proud of. |