

KS4 English - Yearly Overview 2024-25

Subject:	TOPIC	COMPONENT	<i>Notes: Why are you delivering this topic at this time of year?</i>
Autumn 1	Creative Writing – Expressing Ideas Through Storytelling	Key Focus: Descriptive writing, narrative structure, and imaginative expression.	Creative writing encourages students to think outside the box, fostering their ability to imagine new ideas and perspectives. Improves Language Skills: Engaging in creative writing helps students develop their vocabulary, grammar, and overall language proficiency.
Autumn 2	Storytelling Through Different Media – Books, Film, and Theatre	Key Focus: Multimodal storytelling, media analysis, and creative adaptation.	It allows learners to develop a deeper understanding of narrative structure, engage with diverse audiences, enhance creativity, and adapt their storytelling skills to different contexts, all while leveraging the unique strengths of each medium to maximize impact and audience engagement.
Spring 1	The Power of Words – Speeches and Persuasive Writing	Key Focus: Persuasive techniques, speech writing, confidence in spoken language.	Words have a significant impact on how we perceive the world, influence others, and express ourselves, allowing learners to develop better communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and an awareness of the potential effects of language, both positive and negative, in their daily lives and interactions with others.
Spring 2	Gothic Horror – Fear and Suspense	Key Focus: Reading comprehension, descriptive writing, creative storytelling, and sensory language.	Allows learners to explore complex human themes like fear, isolation, and the subconscious through dramatic settings and heightened language, promoting critical thinking, emotional engagement, and deep analysis of characters' inner turmoil, all while providing a safe space to confront anxieties and societal concerns within a fictional framework.

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Summer 1	Macbeth – Power and Betrayal	Key Focus: Understanding Shakespeare, role-playing, visual storytelling, and character exploration.	Macbeth offers a powerful exploration of universal human themes like ambition, corruption, guilt, and the consequences of unchecked power, making it highly relevant to modern life, while also providing a rich opportunity to analyze complex characters, Shakespearean language, and literary devices within a compelling narrative.
Summer 2	Climate Change Crisis	Key Focus: Exploration of fiction and non-fiction texts (e-mail, blogs, letter writing, etc.) The importance of target audience, tone, the ability to present an argument and persuade.	Studying the climate change crisis is highly beneficial for English students, as it allows them to engage with one of the most urgent global challenges through critical thinking, persuasive communication, and ethical reflection. Analyzing climate-related texts—whether fiction, non-fiction, speeches, or media—develops students’ ability to interpret tone, bias, and rhetorical strategies, while also encouraging them to consider the role of language in shaping public discourse and influencing change. By exploring how writers convey urgency, responsibility, and hope, students refine their analytical and argumentative skills within a real-world context, making their study both intellectually rich and socially meaningful.