

Curriculum progression overview – English department

Vision:

The English department has developed a broad and balanced curriculum, strategically sequenced to secure knowledge over time. Our aim is for all students to gain transferable and beneficial literacy skills whilst developing a passion for reading and literature.

Why study English?

The study of English is crucial in order to develop fluency, comprehension and analysis in reading, to write expressively, articulately and be able to express their ideas and opinions about a wide range of topics and lastly, to speak with assurance and confidence in front of their peers.

What powerful knowledge will you gain in English?

English knowledge is both content and skilled based and the curriculum is structured to develop both these strands. Students study a range of work, both fiction and non-fiction which covers both key writers in the traditional canon, and examples of literature and language from a range of times, cultures and traditions. Thematic units are repeated in KS3 in order to secure the powerful knowledge required for successful further study: The Victorians, Conflict, Other Cultures and Mythology. Reading and writing skills are sequentially mapped and repeated in order to anchor this knowledge in students' long-term memory. Additionally, reading lessons contain no analysis of texts or extended writing. Students will track character development and explore the plot and structure of texts, but the main focus is to foster a love of reading and literature. Students will also develop empathy and imagination by reading about different lives, cultures, societies and a wide range of ideas connected with this. Vocabulary lessons are designed to explicitly teach specifically chosen words which provide the foundations for independent reading and de-coding strategies. The acquisition of knowledge and application of existing skills continues into the GCSE courses where study of chosen texts and a range of unseen fiction and nonfiction texts support both students' functional study of English and foster a critical understanding of the world.

How does studying English support your studies in other subjects?

English provides the literacy skills in order to access all literacy-based subjects. The strategies from both the vocabulary and the reading lessons provide key learning which students can then extrapolate into other subjects. Additionally, the contextual knowledge gained supports the teaching of a range of subjects: drama, citizenship, film studies and history. For example, the American West (*Of Mice and Men*) and the Cold War (*Lord of the Flies*).

How are you assessed in English?

KS3 students are assessed through a combination of GL assessment (including NGRT) and teacher assessment. The GL assessments are taken twice a year. Teacher assessments are taken at the end of each unit and students also sit a teacher assessed exam twice a year.

KS4 students are assessed through key indicator pieces which increase in regularity throughout the two years building up to weekly practices by the spring term in Year 11. Students sit external examinations at the end of Year 11. The exam board is AQA.

How can English support your future progression?

The curriculum prepares students for using English in a clear, pragmatic and confident way in the workplace through strong literacy skills. It gives students the tools to analyse and further understand the world they are living in (for example through detecting bias, understanding media terminology and unpicking jargon). For some, it will be the basis of a career in which they use the written word (journalist, PR, publicity, author, teacher, lawyer, curator) for impact and effect.

What enrichment opportunities are there in English?

In terms of extra-curricular activities, students can access a range of lunchtime and after school sessions. The English department runs a popular book club, a poetry club, extra revision sessions for Key Stage 4 students and Debate club. In addition to this, students can experience live theatre as part of a Key Stage 3 trip to London where they visit the Globe theatre, see a performance and then spend the following day at the Harry Potter studios.

5 year model:

KS3 units are of differing lengths depending on texts/topic and year group

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	All years
Thematic unit 1	Other cultures - poetry	The Gothic	Exploring other cultures	Fortnightly vocabulary lessons
Thematic unit 2	The Victorians – poverty	The Victorians Childhood	The Victorians – Science and discovery	
Thematic unit 3	Mythology in Shakespeare	Conflict – protest & dissent	Conflict - War	
Thematic unit 4	Conflict - dystopia	Mythology	Religion in Literature	
Reading lessons (weekly)	The Hunger Games	Animal Farm Kes	(starting Sept 2022 – The Boxer)	

Year 10

Year 11

Literature	Language - Reading	Language – Writing
Weekly revisit to texts during the double lesson.	HT 1 Fiction	Weekly lesson throughout the year and follows the same structure as the reading papers.
	HT 2 Non-fiction	
	HT 3 Fiction	
	HT 4 Non-fiction	
	x	

Literature Unit 1 (HT 1 and into 2)	Lord of the Flies (changing to An Inspector Calls in 2022)
Literature Unit 2 (HT 2 and into 3)	A Christmas Carol
Literature Unit 3 (HT 3 & 4)	Macbeth
Literature Unit 4 (HT 5)	Power and Conflict poetry
Language Unit 5 (HT 6)	Introduction to English Language