



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Curriculum Overview



The curriculum of the school reflects the demands of the National Curriculum. It is designed in order to provide all pupils with a broad, balanced education relevant to their needs both now and in the future.

Departmental Overview

The English Department is comprised of 12 specialist teachers:

Mrs L Armstrong	Head of English Department and Senior Leader of Teaching
Miss C Jones	Assistant Head of School/KS5
Mr R Warwick	Assistant Head of School/KS5/ Pupil Progress Leader
Mrs J Stephens	Assistant Head of School/ Pupil Progress Leader
Miss E Parker	Assistant of Head of Department
Mrs L Davies	Assistant of Head of Department
Miss V Foster	English Intervention Coordinator
Mrs L Murray	Whole School Literacy Coordinator
Miss M Hughes	Whole School Oracy Coordinator
Miss S Bennett	English Teacher
Mrs L Ashton	English Teacher
Miss B Ryan	English Teacher
Ms C Jones	SLT Line Manager

Year 7 English (KS3)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA English Language & AQA English Literature & Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

Pupils study 6 modules of work, two in each term:

Unit 1

English Language Literary Reading and Creative Writing: Pupils will read a wide range of fiction and short stories. Through this, pupils will learn new vocabulary and read for challenge, interest and enjoyment. These texts may be based on fairy tales or super hero stories, although teachers may choose other texts suitable for their groups. These texts will then be used as inspiration to encourage pupils to produce their own written pieces, focusing on plot, setting and characterisation, as well as accuracy, fluency, vocabulary and skill.

Unit 2

The Nineteenth Century Novel: Throughout the Key Stages, pupils will study a range of authors from the Nineteenth Century. They will learn new vocabulary, relating it explicitly to known vocabulary and understanding it with the help of context and dictionaries. Pupils will understand the plot and characterisation of the novel, as well as the context and themes and the effects of these. Most pupils will study Charles Dickens' 'Oliver Twist', but this will depend on the teacher and the class as other 19th Century texts are available to challenge and stretch.

Unit 3

An introduction to Shakespeare – A study of language over time, research the 'Bard', The Globe Theatre, context, examples of language, characters and themes from different plays.

Unit 4

English Language Literary Non-fiction Reading and Discursive Writing: Pupils will read a wide range of non-fiction texts from a range of different time periods. (19th/20th & 21st Century) Through this, pupils will continue to learn new vocabulary and read for challenge, interest and enjoyment. These texts will be primarily related to the art of persuasion and will include an enterprise project, although teachers may choose other topics suitable for their groups. These texts will then be used as a basis to encourage pupils to produce their own written pieces, focusing on leaflets, radio broadcasts, reports and formal speech as well as accuracy, fluency, vocabulary and skill.

Unit 5

Seminal world literature: Modern Drama Study: Pupils will study a range of contemporary literature. This will help them to develop an appreciation and love of reading and to read increasingly challenging material independently. Pupils will study a contemporary play, for example 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell. They will learn to understand setting, plot and characterization and the effects of these, as well as an understanding of how the work of dramatists is communicated effectively through performance and how alternative staging allows for different interpretations of a play.

Unit 6

Poetry: Pupils will recognise a range of poetic conventions and understand how these have been used. They will explore how language, including figurative language, vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features, present meaning. They will read a wide range of poetry and cover a wide range of genres, historical periods, forms and poets. The themes for Year 7 poetry are relationships, or different cultures, but these could change to suit the group. Pupils will have the opportunity to write their own poetry, applying their growing knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and text structure to their writing.

Throughout the academic year:

'Let's Think in English'

Independent reading

Spelling, punctuation and grammar skills

Examinations/Key Assessments

Department Standardised Assessments for Language:

- AQA Paper 1 Specimen 1 Y7 Baseline Assessment
- AQA Paper 1 Specimen 2 Y7 Autumn Assessment
- AQA Paper 2 Specimen 2 Y7 Spring Assessment
- AQA Paper 1 & Paper 2 Specimen 3 Y7 Summer Assessment

Topic Assessments for Literature:

- 19th Century
- Shakespeare
- Modern Text

Homework

Homework is set every week by all staff. If the boy has two teachers, then only one member of staff will provide homework.

How Parents can Help

- Check for homework on Show My Homework
- Check that his written homework is completed
- Help him when learning spellings through revision and testing
- Encourage him to use a dictionary
- Check that your son has a pen and his books for lessons
- Encourage independent reading of both fiction and non-fiction texts
- Oversee the completion of assessment preparation booklets

Year 8 English (KS3)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA English Language & AQA English Literature & Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

Pupils study 6 modules of work, two in each term:

Unit 1

English Language Literary Reading and Creative Writing: Pupils will read a wide range of fiction and short stories. Through this, pupils will learn new vocabulary and read for challenge, interest and enjoyment. These texts may be based on the detective or gothic genres, although teachers may choose other texts suitable for their groups. These texts will then be used as inspiration to encourage pupils to produce their own written pieces, focusing on plot, atmosphere, mood and narrative style, as well as accuracy, fluency, vocabulary and skill.

Unit 2

The Nineteenth Century Novel: Throughout the Key Stages, pupils will study a range of authors from the Nineteenth Century. They will learn new vocabulary, relating it explicitly to known vocabulary and understanding it with the help of context and dictionaries. Pupils will understand the plot and characterisation of the novel and the effects of these. Most pupils will study Charles Dickens' 'Great Expectations', but this will depend on the teacher and the class. By studying Charles Dickens will also be considering a selection of texts by the same author within the Key Stage.

Unit 3

Shakespeare – Pupils will study a complete play and aim to compare setting, character or themes with another Shakespeare text. Students will read critically, understanding how language, including figurative language, vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features presents meaning. Plays to be studied include The Tempest and Julius Caesar.

Unit 4

English Language Literary Non-fiction Reading and Discursive Writing: Pupils will read a wide range of non-fiction texts from a range of different time periods. Through this, pupils will continue to learn new vocabulary and read for challenge, interest and enjoyment. These texts will be primarily be related to the topics of inventions across time and a charity campaign, although teachers may choose other topics suitable for their groups. These texts will then be used as a basis to encourage pupils to produce their own written pieces, focusing on reviews and lively articles and the formal writing of letters and leaflets.

Unit 5

Seminal world literature: Modern Prose Study: Pupils will study a range of contemporary literature. This will help them to develop an appreciation and love of reading and to read increasingly challenging material independently. Pupils will study a modern prose, for example 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne. They will learn to understand setting, plot and characterisation and the effects of these.

Unit 6

Poetry: Pupils will recognise a range of poetic conventions and understand how these have been used. They will explore how language, including figurative language, vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features, present meaning. They will read a wide range of poetry and cover a wide range of genres, historical periods, forms and poets. The theme for Year 8 poetry is nature, but this could change to suit the group. Pupils will have the opportunity to study poets such as Armitage, Duffy, Heaney and Clark. They will be able to write their own poetry, applying their growing knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and text structure to their writing.

Throughout the academic year:

'Let's Think in English'

Independent reading

Spelling, punctuation and grammar skills

Examinations/Key Assessments

Department Standardised Assessments for Language:

- AQA Paper 1 Specimen 1 Y8 Autumn Assessment
- AQA Paper 2 Specimen 2 Y8 Spring Assessment
- AQA Paper 1 & Paper 2 Specimen 3 Y8 Summer Assessment

Topic Assessments for Literature:

- 19th Century
- Shakespeare
- Modern Text

Homework

Homework is set every week by all staff. If the boy has two teachers, then only one member of staff will provide homework.

How Parents can Help

- Check for homework on Show My Homework
- Check that his written homework is completed
- Help him when learning spellings through revision and testing
- Encourage him to use a dictionary
- Check that your son has a pen and his books for lessons
- Encourage independent reading of both fiction and non-fiction texts
- Oversee the completion of assessment preparation booklets

Year 9 English (KS4)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA English Language & AQA English Literature & Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

Pupils study 6 modules of work, two in each term:

Unit 1

English Language Literary Reading and Creative Writing: Pupils will read a wide range of fiction and short stories. Through this, pupils will learn new vocabulary and read for challenge, interest and enjoyment. These texts may be based on dystopian or science-fiction genres, although teachers may choose other topics suitable for their groups. These texts will then be used as inspiration to encourage pupils to produce their own written pieces, focusing on audience and purpose, as well as accuracy, fluency, vocabulary and skill.

Unit 2

The Nineteenth Century Novel: Throughout the Key Stages, pupils will study a range of authors from the Nineteenth Century. They will learn new vocabulary, relating it explicitly to known vocabulary and understanding it with the help of context and dictionaries. Pupils will understand the plot and characterisation of the novel and the effects of these. Most pupils will study Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', but this will depend on the teacher and the class. By studying Charles Dickens, pupils will also be considering a selection of texts by the same author within the Key Stage.

Unit 3

Shakespeare – Pupils will study a complete play and aim to compare setting, character or themes with another Shakespeare text. Students will read critically, understanding how language, including figurative language, vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features presents meaning. The texts will be selected from the GCSE AQA text list, which includes Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth.

Unit 4

English Language Literary Non-fiction Reading and Discursive Writing: Pupils will read a wide range increasingly challenging non-fiction texts from a range of different time periods. Through this, pupils will continue to learn new vocabulary and read for challenge, interest and enjoyment. These texts will be primarily be related to the topics of modern society and real world stories, although teachers may choose other topics suitable for their groups. These texts will then be used as a basis to encourage pupils to produce their own written pieces, focusing on formal and informal letter writing, lively articles and posters, as well as accuracy, fluency, vocabulary and skill.

Unit 5

Seminal world literature: Modern Prose or Drama Study: Pupils will study a range of contemporary literature. This will help them to develop an appreciation and love of reading and to read increasingly challenging material independently. Pupils will study a modern prose, for example 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell or they may study a modern drama, such as 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell. They will learn to understand setting, plot and characterisation and the effects of these.

Unit 6

Poetry: Pupils will recognise a range of poetic conventions and understand how these have been used. They will explore how language, including figurative language, vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features, present meaning. They will read a wide range of poetry and cover a wide range of genres, historical periods, forms and poets. The poets covered in Year Nine will be taken from the list of poets that are recommended to study for the Power and Conflict cluster and the unseen poetry element of the English Literature GCSE. Pupils will have the opportunity to write their own poetry, applying their growing knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and text structure to their writing.

Throughout the academic year:

Independent reading

Spelling, punctuation and grammar skills

Examinations/Key Assessments

Department Standardised Assessments for Language:

- AQA Paper 1 Specimen 1 Y9 Autumn Assessment
- AQA Paper 2 Specimen 2 Y9 Spring Assessment
- AQA Paper 1 & Paper 2 Specimen 3 Y9 Summer Assessment

Topic Assessments for Literature:

- 19th Century
- Shakespeare
- Modern Text

Homework

Homework is set every week by all staff. If the boy has two teachers, then only one member of staff will provide homework.

How Parents can Help

- Check for homework on Show My Homework
- Check that his written homework is completed
- Help him when learning spellings through revision and testing
- Encourage him to use a dictionary
- Check that your son has a pen and his books for lessons
- Encourage independent reading of both fiction and non-fiction texts
- Oversee the completion of assessment preparation booklets

Year 10/11 English (KS4)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA English Language & AQA English Literature & Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

Year 10 Pupils will focus on specific elements of the AQA English Language and AQA English Literature exams:

Unit 1:

Language Paper 1 Section A: Reading One Literature extract & AQA English Language Paper 1 Section B: Descriptive

Unit 2 -3:

AQA English Literature Paper 1 Section B: 19th Century Novel A Christmas Carol & AQA English Literature Paper 2 Section B: Poetry Power and Conflict Cluster

Unit 4:

AQA English Language Paper 2 Section A: Reading Two Non-Fiction Texts & AQA English Language Paper 2 Section B: Transactional Writing

Unit 5:

AQA English Literature Paper 2 Section A: Modern Text Animal Farm or Blood Brothers

Unit 6:

Revision of AQA English Language & AQA English Literature (Teacher to revisit areas for development following all assessment data)

Year 11 Pupils will focus on specific elements of the AQA English Language and AQA English Literature exams:

Unit 1:

Language Paper 1 Section A: Reading One Literature extract & AQA English Language Paper 1 Section B: Narrative

Unit 2 -3:

AQA English Literature Paper 1 Section A: Shakespeare Romeo & Juliet or Macbeth & AQA English Literature Paper 2 Section B: Poetry Power and Conflict Cluster

Unit 4:

AQA English Language Paper 2 Section A: Reading Two Non-Fiction Texts & AQA English Language Paper 2 Section B: Transactional Writing

Unit 5:

AQA English Literature Paper 2 Section A: Modern Text Animal Farm or Blood Brothers & Unseen Poetry

Unit 6:

Revision of AQA English Language & AQA English Literature (Teacher to revisit areas for development before examinations)

Examinations/Key Assessments**In Year 10:**

AQA Specimen 2 Paper 1 Autumn Mock Exam

AQA Specimen 2 Paper 2 Spring Mock Exam

AQA Specimen 3 Paper 1 & Paper 2 Summer Mock Exam

In Year 11:

AQA Specimen 1 Paper 1 Autumn Mock Exam

AQA Specimen 1 Paper 2 Spring Mock Exam

AQA Specimen 4 Paper 1 & Paper 2 Summer Mock Exam

Pupils will also be assessed for Literature:

- AQA English Literature Paper 1 Section A: Shakespeare Romeo & Juliet or Macbeth
- AQA English Literature Paper 1 Section B: 19th Century Novel A Christmas Carol
- AQA English Literature Paper 2 Section A: Modern Text Animal Farm or Blood Brothers
- AQA English Literature Paper 2 Section B: Poetry Power and Conflict Cluster

Homework

Homework is set every week by all staff. If the boy has two teachers, then only one member of staff will provide homework.

How Parents can Help

- Check for homework on Show My Homework
- Check that his written homework is completed
- Help him when learning spellings through revision and testing
- Encourage him to use a dictionary
- Check that your son has a pen and his books for lessons
- Encourage independent reading of both fiction and non-fiction texts
- Oversee the completion of assessment preparation booklets
- Purchase revision guides
- Follow revision timetable and revise weekly

Year 12/13 English Language & Literature (KS5)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA

Curriculum Overview

This stimulating course enables students to engage with a variety of spoken and written texts. It gives them the opportunity to combine linguistic and literary study with creative writing. Students will develop their understanding of English Language and Literature as a combined discipline. They will discover how different writers represent the same place, approach the same genre and consider how they can take a piece of non-fiction and recreate it in another form or genre. The course enables students to analyse the three major literary forms: prose, poetry and drama, as well as a range of literary non-fiction texts.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Throughout this course students will develop a combined understanding of Language and Literature and engage with a variety of texts, both spoken and written. There are two examinations at the end of AS and a further two examinations and a piece of coursework (that accounts for 20% grade) at the end of the A Level. In the first year students will study Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, an anthology of non-fiction texts on Paris and a wide selection of poetry by Robert Browning. In the second year students will also study Othello by William Shakespeare, Into the Wild by John Krakauer, and they will select and study a literary and non-fiction text and compare them in a number of agreed approaches.

Homework

Homework will be set weekly to prepare for examinations and to consolidate skills. Homework will be a variety of guided tasks, independent tasks or group work. Pupils will be expected to revise regularly as an additional homework.

How Parents can Help

Please encourage your son/daughter to complete all homework assignments. Revision guides are available for purchase from the English department.