English: Curriculum and Literacy

Years 7–11 | Subject content overview

Our English curriculum

In English, students explore a broad range of literature, develop their own interpretations and become confident readers, writers and communicators. Across Years 7–11, students build their knowledge of fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction, while strengthening analytical, creative and spoken-language skills.

Our literacy strategy

We promote reading for pleasure as an important part of students' learning and personal development. Students are encouraged to read regularly, discover books that interest them and discuss their reading both in school and at home.

Students are also expected to complete their allocated Sparx Reader homework. Sparx Reader supports regular independent reading and checks understanding through questions linked to the text. Families can support this by encouraging a consistent reading routine and checking that homework is completed by the deadline set by the school.

Alongside reading, we develop vocabulary, accurate written expression, speaking and listening across our curriculum.

Subject content by year group

Year 7 | Discovering Stories

Term	Subject content	Assessment
Autumn	Myths and Monsters (Percy Jackson and Mythos) Non-fiction responses to Mythology	Baseline Creative Writing Percy Jackson 'What/How/Why' practice Weekly knowledge checks on key areas of study.
Spring	A Midsummer Night's Dream Poetry on Magic	Analytical writing skills on major characters and themes Spoken assessment
Summer	The Woman in Black (Grief and Ghosts) Non-fiction responses on grief and the Supernatural	Creative Writing Assessment Baseline knowledge checks Analytical Writing assessment

Year 8 | Exploring Perspectives

Term	Subject content	Assessment
Autumn	Oliver Twist Poetry from the Victorian period Non-fiction articles on Crime and Punishment	Knowledge checks Analytical Writing assessments

Spring	Julius Caesar An exploration into Rhetoric	Spoken assessment (Oracy) Knowledge Checks Analytical prompts on a range of fiction and non-fiction prompts.
Summer	Noughts and Crosses Exploration into cases of racial injustice and discrimination	Analytical style responses Knowledge checks on fiction and non-fiction responses Creative Writing opportunities

Year 9 | Mastering Meaning

Term	Subject content	Assessment
Autumn	Macbeth and Conflict Poetry	GCSE style analytical responses Knowledge Checks
Spring	Jekyll and Hyde An exploration into Victorian monsters and the Supernatural, including inner monsters and demons.	GCSE style analytical responses Language style article writing Knowledge Checks
Summer	Blood Brothers An exploration into poverty, social class and fate, including a range of non-fiction articles and speeches.	GCSE style response on stagecraft Knowledge checks Non-fiction article responses to poverty and deprivation.

Year 10 | Preparing for Success

Term	Subject content	Assessment
Autumn	A Christmas Carol and Language Paper One	Stave reviews GCSE Literature essay prompts Language Paper One questions
Spring	Romeo and Juliet	GCSE Literature essays
Summer	Love and Relationships Poetry and Speaking and Listening Exam	GCSE Speaking and Listening GCSE Literature poetry essays

Year 11 | A Confident Communicator

Term	Subject content	Assessment
Autumn	An Inspector Calls and Language Paper Two	GCSE Literature essay prompts Language Paper Two questions
Spring	Unseen Poetry	Unseen Poetry GCSE questions
Summer	Revision and Exams	As teacher directs. Final GCSE's.