



KEY STAGE 3 ENGLISH

Students in Years 7 and 8 are introduced to a range of non-fiction, fiction, Shakespearean drama, and media texts which are engaging and challenging. The English curriculum has been designed to build students' skills in areas which will be of huge value to them in the future.

Throughout KS3, students are taught reading, writing and spoken language. These are the skills required for future GCSEs and the curriculum is designed to prepare students effectively for the next level. Reading assessments are comprised of students being tested on skills of comprehension, inference, interpretation, analysis and evaluation. Students will also learn to write effectively for a range of purposes, including description, narration, review, persuasion as well as developing the ability to construct an argument.

Reading is at the heart of the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Every student attends a fortnightly Library Lesson. They will also follow the Accelerated Reader programme. Students are encouraged to read widely and supported by their teachers to choose books which they will love and which will help to progress their reading. In their Library Lesson, students have the opportunity to read aloud to their teacher and to talk about what they are reading. Reading logs will also be completed by pupils.

Year 7 Autumn Term

Scheme of Learning:

Autumn 1: 'Writing Memoirs'

Autumn 2: The 19th Century Novel: 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

Students will have the opportunity of reading and writing fictional and non-fictional memoirs in a range of forms including autobiography, letters and diary entries. When exploring the 19th Century Novel, they will use inference and deduction and learn about language devices and literary techniques used, in order to prepare for reading comprehension. They will then demonstrate that they can employ these skills themselves to create powerful pieces of beautifully crafted writing. A key focus will also be vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Procedures:

These units will culminate in a formal GCSE style assessment of both reading and writing which will be marked using the new GCSE mark scheme. Due to national changes the new Curriculum now begins in year 7 and is a continuum up to the final GCSE exams. National Curriculum grades will now be reported as grades 1-9, within which will be an indication whether students are achieving 'developing,' 'secure' or 'mastery' in the subject.

Homework Guidance:

Students will be given a range of homework tasks linked to lessons covered in these schemes of learning. They will be expected to spend between 20-30 minutes completing these tasks. All students should additionally read a quality text of their own choice for a minimum of twenty minutes, four times a week in order to support Literacy.

How can you Help?

Please encourage your son and daughter to complete homework to a good standard. This is crucial as homework supports learning that has taken place in the classroom. Regular reading of a variety of texts is an excellent way of boosting performance.

Year 7 Spring Term

Scheme of Learning:

Spring 1: Shakespeare: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare

Spring 2: Poetry (AQA – a selection of the 'Relationships' cluster)

Students will have the opportunity of diving into the magical world of fairies and sprites alongside the complex realm of human beings in their exploration of Shakespeare. They will also participate in drama and will practise writing in a variety of forms, including agony aunt letters and monologues. They will also use inference and deduction, consolidate their understanding of language devices and literary techniques in order to prepare for reading comprehension. Students will also be introduced to a few poems from the GCSE AQA 'Relationships' cluster, in order to appreciate poems of different forms and structures. Comparison skills will also be introduced in this particular unit. A key focus will also be vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Procedures:

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Year 7 Summer Term

Scheme of Learning:

Summer 1: 'Gothic Literature'

Summer 2: 'Writing to Argue'

Students will be exploring extracts from a wide range of Gothic horror novels and short stories. A key focus will be the analysis of figurative devices to create characters and settings, alongside an exploration of the structure of texts. Students will also be exploring a variety of linguistic devices used to construct an effective argument. The focus will be on crafting writing in order to describe and persuade. A key focus will also be vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Procedures:

These units will culminate in a formal GCSE style assessment of both reading and writing which will be marked using the new GCSE mark scheme. Due to national changes the new Curriculum now begins in year 7 and is a continuum up to the final GCSE exams. National Curriculum grades will now be reported as grades 1-9, within which will be an indication whether students are achieving 'developing,' 'secure' or 'mastery' in the subject.

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Year 8 AutumnTerm
Scheme of Learning:

Autumn 1: 'Travel Writing'

Autumn 2: 20th century novel: 'Holes' by Louis Sachar

Students will explore a wide range of travel writing for various purposes such as extracts from Billy Bryson and Ben Fogle, with a view towards using a range of linguistic devices to create their own travel writing piece. In studying the 20th century novel, they will be exploring literary devices used by the writer to craft the novel, in order to prepare for reading comprehension activities, using skills of inference and deduction. A key focus will also be vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Procedures:

These units will culminate in a formal GCSE style assessment of both reading and writing which will be marked using the new GCSE mark scheme. Due to national changes the new Curriculum now begins in year 7 and is a continuum up to the final GCSE exams. National Curriculum grades will now be reported as grades 1-9, within which will be an indication whether students are achieving 'developing,' 'secure' or 'mastery' in the subject.

Homework Guidance:

Students will be given a range of homework tasks linked to lessons covered in these schemes of learning. They will be expected to spend between 30 minutes to 1 hour completing these tasks. All students should additionally read a quality text of their own choice for a minimum of twenty minutes, four times a week in order to support Literacy.

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Year 8 SpringTerm
Scheme of Learning:

Spring 1: 'Crime Fiction'

Spring 2: 'Poetry AQA' (A selection of the 'Power and Conflict' cluster)

Students will explore a wide range of extracts from crime novels and short stories by writers such as Conan Doyle and Roald Dahl. Generic conventions, structure of narrative and writer's intentions will also be explored to prepare for reading comprehension. Alongside this, they will also explore a range of conflict poetry from the AQA cluster in order to develop their skills of analysis and comparison. .

Assessment Procedures:

These units will culminate in a formal GCSE style assessment of both reading and writing which will be marked using the new GCSE mark scheme. Due to national changes the new Curriculum now begins in year 7 and is a continuum up to the final GCSE exams. National Curriculum grades will now be reported as grades 1-9, within which will be an indication whether students are achieving 'developing,' 'secure' or 'mastery' in the subject.

Homework Guidance:

Students will be given a range of homework tasks linked to lessons covered in these schemes of learning. They will be expected to spend between 30 minutes to 1 hour completing these tasks. All students should additionally read a quality text of their own choice for a minimum of twenty minutes, four times a week in order to support Literacy.

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Year 8 SummerTerm

Scheme of Learning:

Summer 1: Shakespeare: 'The Tempest'

Summer 2: 'Writing to Describe'

Students will be exploring sections of a Shakespeare play, focusing closely on stagecraft, language, themes and characters, in preparation for reading comprehension. A key focus will be the exploration of social and historical context when exploring the play. Students will also be revising and reviewing a wide range of linguistic devices used when writing to describe. They will then have the opportunity to craft their own piece of descriptive writing. A key focus will also be vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Procedures:

These units will culminate in a formal GCSE style assessment of both reading and writing which will be marked using the new GCSE mark scheme. Due to national changes the new Curriculum now begins in year 7 and is a continuum up to the final GCSE exams. National Curriculum grades will now be reported as grades 1-9, within which will be an indication whether students are achieving 'developing,' 'secure' or 'mastery' in the subject.

Homework Guidance:

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KEY STAGE 4 ENGLISH

(AQA ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE – EXAMS FROM 2017)

Throughout Years,9, 10,11 students are taught both English Language and English Literature in preparation for two qualifications of equal status.

English Language (AQA)

The English Language curriculum involves preparation for two papers: ‘Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing,’ and ‘Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives.’ For these units students will study and practise a range of reading and writing skills, including analysis, synthesis of information, inference and comparison for the reading section, and creative writing and presenting an argument for the writing section. Students also prepare to complete a separate compulsory unit: Spoken Language Endorsement. While this spoken presentation does not contribute towards a student's overall grade, the mark (Pass/Merit/Distinction) will be recorded on their exam certificate.

English Literature (AQA exams from 2017)

Students are taught a range of texts, including Shakespeare, a 19th-century novel, a modern text and a range of poetry, all in preparation for two exams at the end of Year 11. They will learn how to closely analyse passages of text and make links with the whole text. They will also develop skills of comparison when studying poetry, including how to compare unseen texts. Students will study the set texts within their social and historical context and learn how this context affects audience interpretations.

Year 9 AutumnTerm

Scheme of Learning:

Autumn 1: GCSE Language Paper 2 (Writer’s Viewpoints and Perspectives) (‘Justice’ unit)

Autumn 2: GCSE Literature: Shakespeare: ‘Macbeth’

For GCSE English Language, students will be introduced to skills of summarising, synthesising and comparison when studying a unit on crime and punishment. They will be conducting an analysis of a wide range of non-fiction texts, in order to prepare for reading comprehension. For GCSE English Literature, students will be exploring a Shakespeare play, focusing closely on stagecraft, language, themes and characters in preparation for a reading comprehension assessment. A key focus will be analysis of key extracts within the play alongside linking of extracts to the wider play. A key focus will also be vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Procedures:

These units will culminate in a formal GCSE style assessment of both reading and writing which will be marked using the new GCSE mark scheme. Due to national changes the new Curriculum now begins in year 7 and is a continuum up to the final GCSE exams. National Curriculum grades will now be reported as grades 1-9, within which will be an indication whether students are achieving ‘developing,’ ‘secure’ or ‘mastery’ in the subject.

Homework Guidance:

Students will be given a range of homework tasks linked to lessons covered in these schemes of learning. They will be expected to spend between 1hr to 2 hrs completing these tasks. All students should additionally read a quality text of their own choice for a minimum of twenty minutes, four times a week in order to support Literacy.

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Year 9 SpringTerm
Scheme of Learning:

Spring 1: GCSE Literature: Shakespeare: 'Macbeth'

Spring 2: GCSE Language: Paper 1 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing': Section B – 'Writing to Describe'

Students to continue with 'Macbeth' focusing closely on preparing for the demands of a closed text examination. As before, they will continue to explore the language, form, structure of texts alongside its social and historical context. This term students will also be exploring the craft of writing to describe, by exploring a diverse range of texts that use a wide range of stylistic devices. This will then be used as a basis to craft their own pieces of creative writing. A key focus will also be vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Procedures:

These units will culminate in a formal GCSE style assessment of both reading and writing which will be marked using the new GCSE mark scheme. Due to national changes the new Curriculum now begins in year 7 and is a continuum up to the final GCSE exams. National Curriculum grades will now be reported as grades 1-9, within which will be an indication whether students are achieving 'developing,' 'secure' or 'mastery' in the subject.

Homework Guidance:

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Year 9 SummerTerm
Scheme of Learning:

Summer 1: GCSE English Literature : Paper 2 (Modern Texts and Poetry): AQA Poetry Anthology 'Love and Relationships' cluster (Section B)

Summer 2: GCSE English Literature : Paper 2 (Modern Texts and Poetry): Unseen Poetry (Section C)

Students will begin looking at a diverse range of poetry from the AQA anthology from the 'Love and Relationships' or 'Power and Conflict' cluster (depending on the individual class and group). The focus will be on exploring language, form and structure, followed by comparing poems. Alongside this, students will also be preparing to meet the demands of exploring an unseen poem in Section C of the examination. A key focus will also be vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Assessment Procedures:

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Useful Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/education
<http://www.educationquizzes.com/gcse/english/>
<http://www.gcse.com/english/>
www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english

Stretch and Challenge – Home Study Activities:

Read non-fiction articles from the nineteenth century. You can find these on the following link: <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

As the new GCSE specifications involve the reading of unseen extracts and answering a range of questions under timed examination conditions, we strongly recommend that your son/daughter reads a wide variety of books and newspapers over the summer. The following websites are also very useful in order to help them revise key aspects of this subject. They also contain links to news articles, in which they can read articles on a variety of topics ranging from international and national affairs, sports, entertainment and fashion.

To read newspapers online try:
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/index.html>
<http://metro.co.uk/>

The 'First News' publication that can be found in WHSmith is also appropriate for teenagers.

Other useful websites with reviews of popular books include:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>
<http://www.teenreads.com/>
<http://www.epicreads.com/>
<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/teenagers/>

Other useful websites include:

- <http://www.channel4learning.com/support/websites/english.html>
- <http://www.funenglishgames.com/grammargames.html>
- <https://howtospell.co.uk/spellingquiz.php>