



OVERVIEW

The purpose of our English curriculum is to provide students with both the skill and the knowledge to provide cultural capital for them so that they can access and interact with the world around them successfully. A high-quality English education allows students to become confident readers, writers, and orators; it enables young people to be able to understand the world around them with clarity. In English at year 8 we build on and develop the skills and knowledge of the themes and features that have been introduced in year 7. Moreover, in year 8 we begin to develop a critical analysis of the texts we study and concentrate on improving our ability to write both creatively and transactionally.

Autumn

Component 1: Jekyll and Hyde

Students will explore the whole text and will be introduced to Victorian society. Students will look at the themes of respectability, social status, science versus religion and duality. Again, students will have to consider the role of gender. Students will practise their creative writing skills and their analytical skills.

Component 2: Richard III

Students will build on their understanding of Shakespeare; they will look at the presentation of character. Students will look at the themes of conflict, power, the corruption of power and physiognomy. Students will practise creative writing.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed in their exercise books. One piece of writing and one piece of reading will be assessed

Personal development:

Through the study of Jekyll and Hyde students will study the theme of morality, science, and religion. Alongside this student will consider gender representation.

Through Richard III students will consider the monarchy, power, and history.

Spring

Component 1: Social Justice: Power, Morality and Human Behaviours

Students will be introduced to psychology and the working of the human psyche; they will look at different pieces of non-fiction texts that explore the behaviours of humans. They will work on their ability to analyse and understand the way in which writer's present their ideas. They will also work on their ability to write to argue/persuade or inform.

Component 2: Social Justice poetry anthology

Students will build on their knowledge of poetic forms and features. They will build on their ability to analyse poetry and look at how to produce a reading response and comparison to different poems.

Assessment:

Students will complete a mid-year assessment which will test their reading and writing skills.

Students will also be assessed in their exercise books. One piece of writing and one piece of reading will be assessed.

Personal development:

Through the social justice component students will consider the behaviours of humanity and the theme of morality.

Students will also consider the presentation of the treatment of others and inequality, prejudice, and discriminations.

Summer

Component 1: Dystopian Science Fiction

Students will be introduced to the dystopian genre through extracts from literature that has been published. Through this component students will begin to understand the themes of corruption and power.

Component 2: Pygmalion - Edwardian

Students will read the full text and will be introduced to the final core themes of class. Through this challenging play, they will be able to think carefully about the convention of a play and stage craft. We will be asking students to consider the expectations society places onto lower/working-class people which will help with their understanding of A Christmas Carol and Victorian

Assessment:

Students will complete an end of year assessment that will test both their reading and writing ability.

Students will be assessed in their exercise books. One piece of writing and one piece of reading will be assessed.

Personal development:

Through this component students will look at the themes of power and corruption; they will consider psychology and sociology.

Through Pygmalion, students will tackle issues such as gender and social status.

Useful resources for supporting your child at home:

The Pearson revision website.

Online platforms such as Seneca and BBC Bitesize

Homework:

Students will complete Sparx reader and should do 300 SPR per week.