



'The flowering of the human soul'

English is a vast subject that focuses on the study of communication in its many forms: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Exploration is key to English; we explore the world around us through both language and literature and use this to consider and shape our opinions and perspectives. Our English curriculum has four key strands: cultural appreciation; reading for meaning; expression and creativity. These strands span from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5. By 'texts' this includes novels, poetry, drama, non-fiction and moving image.

Our English key strands:

- **Cultural appreciation:** exploring a range of perspectives, writers and experiences across time and cultures, whilst considering how it fits within a range of contexts;
- **Reading for meaning:** exploring the meanings of texts from retrieval to analysis and evaluation;
- **Expression:** communicating in its many forms (written, spoken and non-verbal) and to explore viewpoints, whilst having a sense of self-awareness and empathising with others; and
- **Creativity:** developing responses in a variety of forms that incorporate imagination, originality and independence.

As a school, we are keen to foster a love of reading. Students in Key Stage 3 spend 20 minutes on DEAR (drop everything and read) time every day across all subjects, and one English lesson a fortnight is scheduled in the library and dedicated to reading for pleasure. We also use the Accelerated Reader programme to reward both effort and achievement in reading.

Through the study of English, we aim to develop:

- a love of reading and learning;
- strong connections between learning and skills for life;
- independence in learning both in school and at home;
- an element of choice surrounding topics that students are able to explore;
- curious students who are keen to explore and shape the world around them;
- kind, considerate and empathetic individuals who are able to explore and accept diversity in its many forms and confident in challenging discrimination;
- confidence in exploring wider topical aspects, including mental health and relationships
- communication in its many forms (speaking, listening, reading and writing);
- well-rounded individuals able to express opinions, arguments and judgements;
- a sense of self-awareness, imagination and originality;
- creativity whether in writing, speaking or non-verbal means;
- clear links between other subjects to build on the knowledge students have.



KS3 English Curriculum Overview (Year 7 & 8)

At KS3, we have created a broad curriculum where we focus on a range of key themes and texts. In years 7 and 8 we aim to establish key subject knowledge and skills, while also providing students with an engaging and progressively challenging programme of study, providing a foundation for later in their education and lives.

YEAR 7

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
TOPIC	Step right up/ Inside Out	Thirteen Chairs	Entrepreneurs	Heroes and Villains	Monsters and Men	Identity Poetry
KEY STRANDS	Creativity Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Creativity	Creativity Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity
ASSESSMENT	Descriptive writing	Reading for meaning	Persuasive writing and speaking	Analysis of character creation	Exam: analysis of extract and re-creative writing	Spoken performance

YEAR 8

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5
TOPIC	Divided Societies	Conflict poetry	Places and Spaces	Crime and Punishment	Shakespeare in performance
KEY STRANDS	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Creativity
ASSESSMENT	Writing in role	Analytical response	Non-fiction writing forms	Letter in response to extract	Spoken performance and presentation



KS4 English Language and English Literature Curriculum Overview (Year 9, 10 & 11)

We follow the AQA English Language and English Literature specifications.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE	ENGLISH LITERATURE
PAPER 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one fiction extract (20th or 21st Century) descriptive or narrative writing 	PAPER 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> Dickens' <i>A Christmas Carol</i>
PAPER 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two non-fiction extracts (19th and 20th/21st century) viewpoint (opinion) writing 	PAPER 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priestley's <i>An Inspector Calls</i> 'Power and Conflict' poetry anthology Unseen poetry
Spoken Language (speaking exam)	

YEAR 9

Year 9 is intended to bridge the gap between KS3 and GCSE examinations. The first four units focus on the key reading, writing, speaking and listening skills needed at GCSE, but are intended to capture students' interest with challenging, relevant and engaging texts and topics that will increase their cultural capital. After Easter, students embark on their GCSE studies starting with English Language Paper 1.

Throughout the year, students will supplement their learning with fortnightly skills lessons focusing on a range of poetry from a variety of eras, poets and forms. These lessons will include both reading and writing poetry, so students are regularly revisiting and enhancing key GCSE skills.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
TOPIC	Genre Writing (Dystopian - narrative writing)	Reading America* (novel) <small>*Unit subject to change</small>	Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet (tragedy)	Media and Manipulations (non-fiction)	Aspects of Narrative (Language P1)	Spoken Language
KEY CONCEPTS	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Expression Creativity
ASSESSMENT	Critical Evaluation	Narrative or descriptive writing	Comparison	Viewpoint writing	Language Paper 1 – reading and writing	GCSE spoken language exam (recorded)



YEAR 10

Year 10 predominantly introduces students to the key English Literature texts that students will be examined on at the end of Year 11. We begin by studying the texts for English Literature Paper 1, so that students have the opportunity to practise answering an entire paper, before shifting our focus to English Literature Paper 2 texts later in the year.

Throughout the year, students will also supplement their learning with writing weeks embedded in order to practise their writing stamina by answering a range of creative and essay-based tasks.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5
TOPIC	A Christmas Carol (19 th Century novel)	Macbeth (Shakespeare)	An Inspector Calls (modern play)	Language Paper 2 (non-fiction)	'Power and Conflict' poetry part 1
KEY STRANDS	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression
ASSESSMENT	Literature Paper 1 – section B	Literature Paper 1 – section A	Literature Paper 2 – section A	Language Paper 2 – reading and writing	Literature Paper 2 – section B

YEAR 11

Year 11 completes the GCSE course, focusing on Paper 2 of each qualification, before consolidating and revising texts and skills for each of the four examined papers. Throughout the year, students will also supplement their learning with writing weeks embedded in order to practise their writing stamina by answering a range of creative and essay-based tasks.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5
TOPIC	'Power and Conflict' poetry part 2	Language Paper 2	Macbeth	Revision of Literature	Revision of Language
KEY STRANDS	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity
ASSESSMENT	Literature Paper 2 – section B	Language Paper 2 – reading and writing	Literature Paper 1 – section A		GCSE Exams



KS5 English Language Curriculum Overview (Year 12 & 13)

A level English Language is studied in Years 12 and 13. We follow the AQA Specification which looks at how language is used in a vast array of areas to explore how we communicate meanings and create identities.

This course provides the gateway to University and the world of work. GCE English Language is a highly respected qualification where a broad range of skills are developed that make it versatile to suit a wide range of careers.

YEAR 12

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5
TOPIC	Gender Representations	Social Class	Regional varieties	NEA	NEA
KEY STRANDS	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity
ASSESSMENT	Regular written responses/quizzes throughout the year and PPEs	Regular written responses/quizzes throughout the year and PPEs	Regular written responses/quizzes throughout the year and PPEs	NEA internally assessed	NEA internally assessed

YEAR 13

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5
TOPIC	Language Change	Child Language Acquisition	World Englishes	Revision	Revision
KEY STRANDS	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity	Cultural appreciation Reading for meaning Expression Creativity
ASSESSMENT	Regular written responses/quizzes throughout the year and PPEs				Formal GCE examinations



KS5 English Literature Curriculum Overview (Year 12 & 13)

A level English Literature is studied in Years 12 and 13. We follow AQA Specification B; we study ‘Aspects of Comedy’ and ‘Social and Political Protest writing’. This course provides the gateway to University and the world of work. GCE English Literature is a highly respected qualification where a broad range of skills are developed that make it versatile to suit a wide range of careers.

YEAR 12

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5
TOPIC	Songs of Innocence & Experience	The Kite Runner	A Doll’s House	Twelfth Night	NEA – prose and poetry
KEY STRANDS	Cultural appreciation	Cultural appreciation	Cultural appreciation	Cultural appreciation	Cultural appreciation
	Reading for meaning	Reading for meaning	Reading for meaning	Reading for meaning	Reading for meaning
	Expression	Expression	Expression	Expression	Expression
ASSESSMENT	Regular written responses/quizzes throughout the year and PPEs				NEA internally assessed

YEAR 13

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5
TOPIC	Comedy Poetry	She Stoops To Conquer	Twelfth Night	Twelfth Night	Revision
KEY STRANDS	Cultural appreciation	Cultural appreciation	Cultural appreciation	Cultural appreciation	Cultural appreciation
	Reading for meaning	Reading for meaning	Reading for meaning	Reading for meaning	Reading for meaning
	Expression	Expression	Expression	Expression	Expression
ASSESSMENT	Regular written responses/quizzes throughout the year and PPEs				Formal GCE examinations



Enrichment Activities

At KS3 students use the Accelerated Reading platform to enhance their reading; this is something that can be accessed throughout the school day, including break, lunch, tutor time and afterschool. For KS4 and KS5, we run 'English Extras' as a means to revisit key texts and skills needed for GCSE/GCE exams.

We also enhance the curriculum through theatre trips and/or events in school, such as performances from The Globe Players and a visiting writer running workshops. These do vary year to year – we do aim to do something for each year.

In terms of House competitions, English will often work with Ms Cossey in the Library to celebrate key days such as World Book Day and National Poetry Day. We also run a Christmas and summer reading competition where students submit a piece of writing (in any form) to win their wish list of three books.