

ENGLISH

Studying English and English literature is incredibly valuable to our students' futures. The knowledge and skills developed opens doors to learning, helping them grow both personally and professionally. Whilst nurturing communication skills essential for today's global environment and careers opportunities, English also opens worlds of creativity and inspiration helping students become better citizens through an increased depth of thought, a heightened sense of empathy and ability to express their opinions.

| | Autumn term: <i>The supernatural</i> | | Spring: Visionaries | | Summer: The Power of Language | |
|--------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| Half term 1 | Novel study: <i>Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror</i> Building on Year 7, this unit engages with both literal and metaphorical explorations of the 'Gothic' genre. Students will explore concepts including morality and hubris. | | Shakespeare study: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Students will develop their understanding of Shakespeare's story-telling methods including his use of language and structure. Students will be introduced to universal themes such as love, patriarchy and dreams. The students will explore what made Shakespeare so influential and consider how he has shaped the English Language and the modern day theatre. | | Novel Study: <i>Animal Farm</i> The students will use the novel <i>Animal Farm</i> as a vehicle to explore political writing and rhetoric. They will engage with debate surrounding political and social injustice and consider how language is used to manipulate and persuade an audience. | |
| | Important vocabulary: | | Important vocabulary: | | Important vocabulary: | |
| | Imperative Phenomenon Symbolic Tradition Rational Ambiguous | Malevolent, Hubris Frame narrative | Vision Formality Authority Perspective Dialogue Comedy, Tragedy, Convention | Patriarchy Verisimilitude Parallel, Phenomenon, Vision | Contemporary, Discriminate Formality Authority Perspective Foreshadowing | Ignorant, Restrict, Welfare Injustice Prejudice |
| Half term 2 | Poetry study: To further develop their cultural understanding of the Gothic genre and supernatural, students will also study a selection of Gothic poems from the Victorian era allowing them to explore how the Gothic movement has influenced the modern literary canon. | | Romantic Poetry Students will study the Romantic Movement and engage with a range of influential Romantic poets including Keats, Wordsworth, Blake and Dickinson. The students will explore how poets use language and structure to convey meaning. | | Non Fiction reading and writing: Students will study the fundamental features of persuasive writing whilst exploring the conventions of text types before creating their own persuasive speeches and articles inspired <i>Animal Farm</i> and a range of historical and contemporary political figures. | |
| | Important vocabulary: | | Important vocabulary: | | Important vocabulary: | |
| | Tradition Rational Ambiguous | Gothic Horror, Pathetic fallacy, Inference, | Romantic Subordinate Explicit Implicit Motive | Sonnet Epic Iambic pentameter Caesura | Malevolent Anti-semitism Pathetic fallacy Conflict | Repetition Pathetic fallacy Overt Covert juxtaposition |

Key staff contacts:

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What are our curriculum aims for your child in year 8?

- 📖 To develop an appreciation and love of reading, and read increasingly challenging material independently.
- 📖 To enhance their vocabulary so that they can express their opinions creatively
- 📖 To understand key literary thematic concerns and their conventions in writing
- 📖 To understand how to make connections between the texts we study and our wider world.
- 📖 To seek to understand how influential writers became successful
- 📖 To develop writing styles and to develop meaningful viewpoints about our world and pivotal events.

How can I help my child be successful in English and English literature?

- 📖 Try reading with your child regularly from the additional reading list provided
- 📖 Research the conventions of the bildungsroman with your child
- 📖 Look at different examples of travel writing with your child
- 📖 Explore the key vocabulary often with your child to help them transfer it to long term memory
- 📖 Read frequently together or separately. 20 minutes per day is the recommended level.
- 📖 Practise tricky spellings together.

How will you assess my child's progress?

Assessment of learning takes many forms. We assess how your child is learning through their written and oral responses.

In English we value the importance of providing students with feedback that enables them to progress. We therefore provide formative feedback that requires a response from our students. This may be a short response to correct an error or a longer response to improve a section of an extended piece of work. Typically, students complete this work in green pen and are then able to reflect clearly on where they have made progress.

Students appreciate the importance of practising extended writing pieces. We set, mark and feedback on 'mini -assessments' regularly to enable them to track their progress in different disciplines.

We also complete a final assessment piece once every term to provide a 'snap shot' of the skills the students have gained and those which still require work. This is used, along with their classwork and feedback, to inform the reports you receive home.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss our assessment policy in depth.