

English Curriculum Intent

Pupils' learning and development is at the heart of our school's curriculum; it is aimed to be broad and balanced and equip pupils with the necessary skills to succeed in life after school.

What the English curriculum is designed to do

Our diverse curriculum is tailored to afford students the opportunity to develop robust and widely applicable skills in analysis, critical thinking, and creativity. The skills developed in our classrooms are honed from the very beginning of our students' academic journey and provide students with the tools they will ultimately need in order to succeed in further education, in their chosen career, and in a rapidly changing world.

How the English faculty delivers our curriculum

The study of English introduces students to the literary canon, enabling students to access rich and engaging poetry, prose, and drama from a range of literary periods. Through the study of English, students will develop an extended vocabulary, enabling them to express complex ideas and beliefs. English is pertinent in supporting students in their moral, social, and spiritual development, consistently enabling students to reflect on their own beliefs and values. For instance, our brand-new Year 7 and Year 8 curriculum equips pupils with skills needed in upper school, but also affords pupils the chance to touch upon issues around inclusivity. Y9 builds upon the knowledge and skills developed in Y7 and Y8 and ensures pupils are ready for the rigour of GCSE.

Our faculty ethic of inclusivity, justice and empathy spans the Key Stages. These values are grasped and exhibited via exceptional teaching, which we are proud to see manifested in fantastic exam results. However, nurturing the 'whole person' is paramount and fundamental in all we do, as can be observed in our Schemes of Work, and their delivery.

How we assess students

There will be six summative assessments each year.

Key Stage 3: Students will be assessed based on the SoW they are currently being taught. Each assessment evaluates students' own creative writing skills of content and accuracy or their ability to investigate other writers' choice of language and structure. These key competency skills in creativity and analysis are integral to future GCSE examinations and are assessed from year 7.

Key Stage 4: Students will be assessed termly in Literature and Language. To reflect the linear exam courses, material is studied in a cyclical fashion, with a focus on testing and re-testing to aid the development of long-term memory, and mastery of both the skills and knowledge required. This curriculum structure aims to improve student retention of knowledge, build student confidence ahead of assessments.

Running alongside all our Key Stage curriculums is an ongoing focus on developing students' spoken language skills through our Oracy initiatives, and our relentless focus on enabling our students to be effective and articulate speakers and listeners, who know when to lead and when to participate.

How the English curriculum benefits pupils' learning and personal development

- Our curriculum provides students with the implicit and explicit knowledge necessary to enable them to achieve at their very best.
- Students understand that behind every text written exists writer intent.
- Students know that we can and should make predictions about any text (both fiction and non-fiction) by asking a set of initial questions.
- Students are aware there are a set of fundamental, universal, and timeless themes/ideas that influence the intentions of writers, which spans the chronology of the literary canon. This includes what will become the canon of the future, as these ideas/themes transcend the boundaries of time. (e.g., class divides, abuse of power, gender boundaries and inequality.)
- Students know that they too are connected to these very themes/ideas, and that this can inform their own personal responses to a text.
- Students understand and acquire a control over language, both written and spoken, so they can discover and utilise linguistic command.