

English Curriculum Map 2026-2027

Curriculum Intent

The English curriculum is designed to develop confident, articulate and critical readers, writers and speakers. Through exposure to a broad range of literary heritage texts, contemporary fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction, students build cultural capital, deepen their understanding of the world and develop a lifelong appreciation of language and literature.

Students study challenging texts from a variety of periods, cultures and perspectives. The curriculum prioritises reading for meaning, analytical thinking, effective communication and creative expression. Knowledge and skills are carefully sequenced so that students move from developing foundational literacy and literary understanding in Key Stage 3 to mastering the analytical, evaluative and examination skills required for GCSE success in Key Stage 4.

The curriculum aims to ensure that all students:

- Read fluently, critically and for pleasure.
- Write accurately and effectively for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Understand how writers craft meaning through language, structure and form.
- Develop confidence in spoken language and discussion.
- Build cultural, historical and contextual understanding through literature.
- Leave school equipped with the literacy skills required for further education, employment and active citizenship.

Year 7

Autumn Term

- Greek Myths (August to October)
- Assessment: Setting Test
- Non-Fiction: Autobiography and Identity (October to December)

Spring Term

- The Bone Sparrow (January to March)

Summer Term

- Imaginative Writing: Adventure (April to May)

- Poetry: Hope (June to July)

Key Skills

- Reading literary heritage texts
 - Understanding myth and storytelling
 - Personal and autobiographical writing
 - Narrative writing techniques
 - Poetry analysis and interpretation
-

Year 8

Autumn Term

- Gothic Literature: The Woman in Black
- Drama Conventions: Mystery Play

Spring Term

- A Midsummer Night's Dream

Summer Term

- Travel Writing
- Romantic Poetry

Key Skills

- Gothic conventions and atmosphere
 - Shakespearean language and performance
 - Non-fiction travel writing
 - Comparative poetry analysis
-

Year 9

Autumn Term

- Lord of the Flies
- Opinion Writing

Spring Term

- Romeo and Juliet

Summer Term

- Imaginative Writing: Island Narratives
- Poetry: World Themes

Key Skills

- Analytical essay writing
 - Persuasive and opinion writing
 - Shakespeare analysis
 - Creative narrative development
 - Thematic poetry study
-

Year 10

Autumn Term

- A Christmas Carol
- Language Paper 1 Skills

Spring Term

- Animal Farm
- Macbeth

Summer Term

- Macbeth (continued)
- Transactional Writing
- Mock Revision

Key Skills

- GCSE Literature set texts
 - Language Paper 1 and 2 preparation
 - Literary analysis and evaluation
 - Transactional and non-fiction writing
-

Year 11

Autumn Term

- Language Paper 2 Section A and B
- Anthology Poetry
- Mock Revision

Spring Term

- Unseen Poetry
- Animal Farm Revision
- Macbeth Revision
- Language Paper 1 Revision
- Mock Revision and SLE Preparation

Summer Term

- Bespoke Revision Programme

Key Skills

- GCSE examination technique
- Poetry comparison
- Unseen poetry analysis
- Retrieval, inference and evaluation
- Personalised revision strategies

Progression Overview

Year 7: Foundations

Students develop core reading, writing and analytical skills through mythology, non-fiction and contemporary literature. They learn to identify literary methods, explain effects and write with increasing accuracy and control.

Year 8: Genre and Literary Heritage

Students build on prior learning through the study of Gothic fiction, Shakespeare and poetry. They begin to compare texts, analyse writers' methods in greater depth and explore how context influences meaning.

Year 9: Independence and Critical Thinking

Students encounter increasingly complex themes through *Lord of the Flies* and *Romeo and Juliet*. They develop mature analytical responses, persuasive viewpoints and more sophisticated creative writing.

Year 10: GCSE Transition

Students apply established analytical skills to GCSE texts and examination-style questions. Knowledge of writer's methods, context and literary concepts becomes more precise and evaluative.

Year 11: Mastery and Examination Success

Students refine examination technique, secure knowledge of set texts and develop independence through targeted revision. Learning focuses on evaluation, comparison, interpretation and confident application of GCSE assessment objectives.

Assessment and Revision Points

KS3

- Year 7 Setting Assessment
- Regular extended writing opportunities
- Reading, writing and speaking assessments embedded within units

KS4

- Mock examinations
- Language Paper 1 and 2 preparation
- Literature text revision
- Anthology and unseen poetry preparation
- Bespoke intervention and revision programmes

Curriculum Progression

Students progress from mythology, genre study and foundational reading and writing skills in Key Stage 3 towards increasingly challenging literary texts, analytical writing, GCSE examination skills and independent revision strategies in Key Stage 4. The curriculum is deliberately sequenced to revisit and strengthen