

Curriculum Overview: Year 8 English

Rationale: In Year 8 we endeavour to build on students' knowledge of a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as novels, poetry and articles. Students will continue to learn how to analyse texts on a deeper level, paying particular attention to the methods writers use to create meaning. Students will be exposed to a range of subject specific terminology, and will learn how to use this accurately and appropriately in their writing. Students will develop their reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills, to encourage high levels of literacy across all disciplines.

Term	Outline	Assessment	Home learning	Skills focus	Skills interleaved
Autumn 1 Speech writing Writing (8 weeks)	Students to understand the features of speech writing and rhetoric and to create their own persuasive speeches, with a focus on sentence variety and punctuation for effect.	Progress Check: Persuasive paragraph on given topic. End Assessment: Full persuasive speech on given topic.	Home learning booklet – tasks to be set by class teacher and vocab tested in class.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and comprehension of famous speeches • Using a variety of sentence types and punctuation for effect • Using persuasive devices effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and comprehension of non-fiction texts (year 7 Spring 2) • Writing non-fiction texts (year 7 Spring 2) • Punctuation and sentence variety (KS2)
Autumn 2 Empire Reading (7 weeks)	Students to understand the concept of Empire, and be able to identify key features in a range of fiction and non-fiction examples. Students to analyse language in fiction and non-fiction texts.	Progress Check: Analysis of 'The Jungle Book' as an allegory for British Empire. EXAM: Analysis of 'Heart of Darkness' extract.	Home learning booklet – tasks to be set by class teacher and vocab tested in class.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of writer's methods • Reading and comprehension • Use of references to support ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the writer (Year 7 – Autumn 2, Spring 1, Spring 2, Summer 1 and 2) • Use of references to support ideas (Year 7 – Autumn 2, Spring 1, Summer 1 and 2) • Reading and comprehension (Year 7)
Spring 1 Power and Conflict Poetry Reading (6 weeks)	Students will study a range of poems linked to the theme of power and conflict. Students will understand how the context of a poem affects the meaning, and apply this to their responses.	Progress Check: One poem assessment. End Assessment: One poem assessment.	Home learning booklet – tasks to be set by class teacher and vocab tested in class.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of writers' methods to create meaning • Analysis of poetic methods • Using references to support ideas • Applying terminology accurately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the writer (Year 7 – Autumn 2, Spring 1, Spring 2, Summer 1 and 2) • Use of references to support ideas (Year 7 – Autumn 2, Spring 1, Summer 1 and 2) • Reading and comprehension (Year 7)

<p>Spring 2</p> <p>Gothic Writing Writing (6 weeks)</p>	<p>Students will explore the conventions of the Gothic genre, and create their own Gothic descriptions using figurative language effectively.</p>	<p>Progress Check: Descriptive writing based on Gothic image</p> <p>End Assessment: Descriptive writing based on Gothic image.</p>	<p>Home learning booklet – tasks to be set by class teacher and vocab tested in class.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing accurately and coherently • Using figurative language effectively • Applying Gothic conventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and comprehension of fiction texts (year 7 – Autumn 2, Summer 1) • Creating imagery (year 7 Autumn 1) • Using figurative language (KS2)
<p>Summer 1</p> <p>The Foreshadowing Reading (4 weeks)</p>	<p>Students will read the novel ‘The Foreshadowing’ by Marcus Sedgwick, paying particular attention to how the protagonist develops.</p>	<p>Progress Check: Paragraph on how Alexandra is presented early in the novel.</p>	<p>Home learning booklet – tasks to be set by class teacher and vocab tested in class.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and comprehension skills • Analysis of character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and comprehension (Year 7 - Autumn 1 and 2, Spring 1 and 2, year 8 – Autumn 2) • Use of references to support ideas (Year 7 - Autumn 2, Spring 1, Summer 1 and 2) • Analysis of character (Year 7 – Autumn 2, Summer 1)
<p>Summer 2</p> <p>The Foreshadowing Reading (2 weeks)</p> <p>Diverse Shorts S&L (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Students will analyse the whole novel ‘The Foreshadowing’, paying particular attention to how the protagonist develops.</p> <p>Students will explore a range of short stories based on the theme of diversity. Students to write and perform their own speech.</p>	<p>End Assessment: How does Alexandra change throughout the novel?</p> <p>Assessment: Spoken Language assessment in class.</p>	<p>Home learning booklet – tasks to be set by class teacher and vocab tested in class.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of writer’s methods • Use of references to support ideas • Analysis of character • Oracy and presentation skills • Using spoken English effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and comprehension (Year 7 - Autumn 1 and 2, Spring 1 and 2, year 8 – Autumn 2) • Use of references to support ideas (Year 7 - Autumn 2, Spring 1, Summer 1 and 2) • Analysis of character (Year 7 – Autumn 2, Summer 1) • Oracy and spoken presentation skills. • Speech writing (Year 8 Autumn 1)