

English Language and Literature

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Zi/c: Miss A Johnson

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Department aims:

In English Language and Literature we aim to provide students with a wealth of reading materials allowing them to access a wide variety of text types. We hope they will have an analytical viewpoint to language and explore context to allow them to question the viewpoints expressed by writers. We aim to give them the skills to produce a variety of text types which will enable them to express their own viewpoints in their personal writing.

KS3

In Year 7 we will study creative writing through our topic of superheroes. We will study a range of poems from WW1, where we will practise annotating unseen poems, explore our understanding of context, and ensure a good knowledge of poetic devices. We will study a full novel (Private Peaceful) we will practise the reading skills needed for Component 1 of the English Language GCSE, whilst ensuring pupils have a sound understanding of context, plot and character. As well as studying An Introduction to Shakespeare through 'The Tempest'; where we will explore language, stagecraft and terminology. We will also complete exam preparation for Language Component 1.

Year 8 will build on the study started in Year 7. We will build on pupils' writing skills ensuring a good knowledge of rhetorical devices and how to write a persuasive speech through the topic of Theme Parks. We will continue with poetry and poetic techniques, however this will focus on two poems from the Victorian period and will build into writing a comparative essay. We will study a full novel (The Boy in Striped Pyjamas) and link it to the Assessment Objectives for GCSE Language Component 2 ensuring a secure understanding of context, plot and character. We will continue our study of Shakespeare through 'Much Ado About Nothing'; to include knowledge of plot, character, context, language, structure and dramatic form. We will complete Exam Preparation for Language component 2.

Year 9 will begin the full study of GCSE English Language through the Literature texts. We will study Gothic literature extracts and descriptive writing techniques which end in their own writing of creative horror stories then move onto the study of the GCSE Literature Paper 19th Century Novel: 'Jekyll and Hyde'. We will study transactional writing and the use of rhetorical devices through the form of reports, letters, articles, reviews, speeches and leaflets. This will lead onto the study of the GCSE Literature Paper 2 text: Animal Farm. We will then study Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' for GCSE Literature Paper 1 to ensure a confident knowledge of plot, character, context, analysis of language, structure, dramatic form and conventions, as well as literary terminology. Throughout the year, pupils will also study a poem from the Power and Conflict cluster of GCSE Literature Paper 2 on fortnightly basis.

KS4

Year 10 will sit their GCSE English Literature in exams in May of that year. They will re-examine all texts with a critical focus to prepare the exams in that school year. They will understand the Assessment Objectives and how to write a critical essay. Throughout the year they will have fortnightly exam hours in which they can practise and improve their exam skills. For Literature Paper 1 they will revisit 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Jekyll and Hyde'; for Literature Paper 2 they will revisit 'Animal Farm', Power and Conflict poetry cluster and unseen poetry.

After they have sat their exams in May they will study the Spoken Language element of the GCSE English Language so it has been completed prior to the end of the year and can be re-recorded if necessary.

In Year 11 we will study GCSE English Language to prepare pupils for all their exams in June - Language Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing and Language Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing. They will understand the Assessment Objectives and the structure of the language papers. Throughout the year they will have fortnightly exam hours in which they can practise and improve their exam skills.

How can I help support my child's learning in...?

At KS3 pupils should read for at least 10 minutes a night, and you can support them by ensuring they do this and signing their planner, discussing their reading with them and encouraging them to take quizzes. You could also help you child with their fortnightly writing task and fortnightly spelling.

At KS4 you can encourage your children to spend 45 minutes completing their fortnightly writing task in exam conditions to help prepare them for their GCSE. You can also encourage them to keep rereading the set texts and creating a glossary of key quotations, as well as learning subject terminology.

Useful websites

www.bbc.co.uk/education

www.sparknotes.co.uk

www.shmoop.com