

English Language and Literature

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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 build on pupils' writing skills ensuring a good knowledge of rhetorical devices and how to write a persuasive speech. 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 practise writing PEAK paragraphs and using comparative skills. We will study a full novel (*Private Peaceful*) and link it to the Assessment Objectives of GCSE Language Paper 1 ensuring pupils have a sound understanding of context, plot and character. As well as studying *An Introduction to Shakespeare* where we will explore language, play genres, characters and extracts. We will also complete exam preparation for Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing.

Year 8 will build on the study started in Year 7. We will study film and graphic novel which will develop into our own narrative writing and film review. 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 Paper 2 ensuring a secure understanding of context, plot and character. We will complete a full in depth study of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' to include knowledge of plot, character, context, analysis of language, structure, dramatic form and conventions and literary terminology. We will complete Exam Preparation for Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives.

Year 9 will begin the full study of GCSE English. We will begin by looking at Literature Paper 2: Unseen Poetry to secure our knowledge of literary terminology for Language based questions. We will study Victorian/gothic literature extracts and descriptive writing techniques which end in their own writing of creative horror stories to prepare for the study of the GCSE Literature Paper 1: 19th Century Novel 'Jekyll and Hyde'.

We will study Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing by looking at: extracts from novels, short stories, openings, endings, Point of View, descriptions, characters, atmospheres and practise our own Creative Writing from scenario, prompt or visual image. We will study Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives by looking at: journalism, articles, reports, essays, travel writing, accounts, sketches, letters, diaries, autobiographies, biographies. We will look at different writing styles to enable us to write in a discursive nature and communicate in a personal voice. We will study: writing to explain, writing to instruct/advise, writing to argue, writing to persuade; letter, article and speech. We will study Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' in depth to ensure a confident knowledge of plot, character, context, analysis of language, structure, dramatic form and conventions, as well as literary terminology.

KS4

Year 10 will start with Literature Paper 2: Modern Texts – Animal Farm; this will be another in-depth study of the novel to include knowledge of plot, character, context, analysis of language, structure, dramatic form and conventions, as well as literary terminology. They will study Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – continuing their knowledge of writing styles which are discursive in nature and communicate a personal voice. To include: writing to explain, writing to instruct/advise, writing to argue, writing to persuade; letter, article and speech. We will study Conflict Poetry for Literature Paper 2 where we will identify techniques and practise comparative essays. We will complete revision and exam preparation for Literature Paper 1: 19th Century Novel and Shakespeare. We will then produce speeches for the Spoken Language part of the GCSE Qualification where we will look at the study of speech and paralinguistics in preparation for Speaking and Listening task.

In Year 11 we will have covered the content for Literature so will focus on fully preparing pupils for all their exam papers - Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing; Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives; Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century Novel; and Literature Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry.

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