

KS3: English Curriculum

In English, we aim to introduce students to a broad range of Literature – including poetry, plays, short stories and novels – from across different periods and from different places. They study poetry chronologically as follows:

- Year 7 – Homer to Shakespeare: An Epic Journey
- Year 8 – Romantics and Victorians
- Year 9 – The Moderns and World Poetry

This journey takes them from Homer to Shakespeare, and then onto the Romantics and Victorians, before looking at 20th and 21st century poetry from across the world. They also study a series of major novels and shorter novellas and stories. Over the course of KS3, they will all read:

- Year 7 - *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and *Call of the Wild*
- Year 8 – *A Christmas Carol* and *Animal Farm*
- Year 9 – *The Yellow Wallpaper* and *The Woman in Black*

Across KS3 we also introduce students to Shakespeare, studying:

- Year 7 - *Romeo and Juliet*
- Year 8 - *The Tempest*
- Year 9 - *Julius Caesar*

They will be exposed to modern drama with *Kindertransport* by Diane Samuels in Year 8 and one of Arthur Miller's plays in Year 9 – either *The Crucible* or *A View from the Bridge*.

Literature and reading are at the heart of our curriculum, and we encourage students to read widely and for pleasure, with regular library lessons in KS3.

To this end, each student is given a Reading Passport where they keep a record of their reading and are awarded House Points and other awards based on their reading. We encourage students to share and recommend books based on their reading through discussion and reviews. Moreover, in Year 7, students have two literacy lessons per fortnight where they develop their reading skills further through the study and appreciation of a range of short stories and non-fiction sources.

Embedded into the study of literature, and the development of our students as readers, is the teaching of writing and speaking and listening. Students begin to engage with essay writing from the start of Year 7 and the skills continue to be developed across KS3. We also embed creative writing - including descriptive, story and point of view writing – into all of our units of work. Within each unit, there are opportunities for discussion and students are encouraged to develop as confident speakers. Our aim is for our students to be confident and fluent readers, and to engage with and understand varied texts. Our goal is to further develop our students into confident young people, able to speak and write with confidence, consciously crafting their language for different contexts: to be able to speak and write imaginatively, discursively and analytically.

KS3 English: At a glance...

| | AUT 1 | AUT 2 | SPR 1 | SPR 2 | SUM 1 | SUM 2 |
|-----------|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Y7 | <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> (7 weeks) | <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> (7 weeks) | <i>Poetry: Homer to Shakespeare & Fantasy Writing</i> (6 weeks) | <i>Poetry</i> (2 weeks) → <i>Call of the Wild</i> (3 weeks) | <i>Call of the Wild</i> (3 weeks) → <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (2 weeks) | <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (7 weeks) |
| Y8 | <i>Kindertransport</i> (7 weeks) | <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (7 weeks) | <i>Poetry: The Romantics & The Victorians</i> (6 weeks) | <i>Poetry</i> (2 weeks) → <i>The Tempest</i> (3 weeks) | <i>The Tempest</i> (3 weeks) → <i>Animal Farm</i> (2 weeks) | <i>Animal Farm & Dystopian Writing</i> (7 weeks) |
| Y9 | <i>A View from the Bridge</i> OR <i>The Crucible</i> (7 weeks) | <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i> (7 weeks) | <i>Poetry: Modern World</i> (6 weeks) | <i>Poetry</i> (2 weeks) → <i>Julius Caesar</i> (3 weeks) | <i>Julius Caesar</i> (3 weeks) → <i>The Woman in Black</i> (2 weeks) | <i>The Woman in Black</i> (7 weeks) |