

Year 8 ENGLISH

Overall Intent:

In Year 8, students study a wide variety of topics and texts, from contemporary poetry to Shakespeare’s timeless ‘The Tempest’. We cover a range of fundamental writing skills, allowing our students to explore their imagination through a range of writing formats such as informative article writing, creative descriptive writing and analytical essay writing. In doing so, they build the understanding to explore their own use of language and how it is used to create a desired effect. They develop their awareness of narrative structure, atmosphere, and characterisation. These are built on in Year 9 when we begin to study GCSE level texts such as Golding’s ‘Lord of the Flies’ and Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth’. The intricacy and difficulty of our selected texts are gradually increased, to facilitate students’ progression and provide appropriate challenge. By developing students’ reading and writing skills, we are supporting our students in building their ability and their confidence in responding to exam-style questions, both in a structured, written format, and by articulating their response orally through our dedicated oracy workshops.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic/Area of study	FICTION – Animal Farm	POETRY FROM OTHER CULTURES	NON-FICTION (News articles and editorials)	SHAKESPEARE – The Tempest	PREPARATION FOR END OF YEAR EXAM	CREATIVE WRITING - Gothic
Key learning aims – knowledge and skills	To understand and explore narrative structure. To understand the influence of context on a writer’s intentions. To analyse character in relation to an author's intentions. To understand that writing has been	To understand and be able to use more advanced poetic terminology when analysing poetry, particularly in relation to imagery. To understand and explore how poets’ own identities and cultures influence their poetry. To explore ideas about our own culture and identity	To analyse different non-fiction texts through exploring type, audience, and purpose. To understand the proper structure of an article, looking at examples and creating our own. To understand the features of non-fiction writing and identifying / analysing these,	To understand the context and plot of Shakespeare’s ‘The Tempest’. To understand key characters, how they are related, and their functions within the play. To identify relevant quotations to help analyse the character of Caliban. To explore how Shakespeare makes	To develop confidence with identifying and analysing word classifications. To understand and develop ability to respond using PEE structure. To understand and develop ability to write imaginatively using AFORREST devices.	To understand and explore the characteristics of gothic fiction. To understand and explore what makes a successful piece of writing To understand and explore how an effective atmosphere is created. To analyse examples of Gothic literature.

	<p>created for a purpose. To understand writing techniques and suggest reasons a writer might use them. To begin to evaluate a writer's message.</p>	<p>and express them ideas through our poetry. To analyse the similarities and differences between two poems. To be able to create our own poems and evaluate the success through personal and peer reflection.</p>	<p>considering the writers' intentions and resulting effect. To analyse a range of features in news articles and editorials. To create an original article and evaluate the success through personal and peer reflection.</p>	<p>use of dramatic devices to make his plot/characters engaging to his audience. To use what, how, why to generate an essay response. To explore core themes in the play and how they run through key scenes. To evaluate how Shakespeare used the ending to 'The Tempest' to optimise impact.</p>	<p>To understand and become familiar with grading criteria and how to meet our targets. To respond to exam-style questions with increasing confidence and ability. To evaluate individual responses through personal and peer reflection.</p>	<p>To apply techniques and characteristics of Gothic writing to own writing.</p>
Assessment	Animal Farm Fiction Assessment (Reading Skills)	Poetry Assessment (Reading Skills)	Article Writing Assessment (Writing Skills)	Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' Assessment (Speaking and Listening)	End of Year Assessment (Reading and Writing)	