

Subject:	English
Specification:	English Language and English Literature
Exam Board	AQA

The English Department consists of teachers from a wide range of disciplines ranging from specialists in English Literature, Film, Media and Drama. This provides us with a broad range of skills to enhance the learning of our students. The vision of the department is to work collaboratively and to share ideas and resources; this means that we have an exciting and lively curriculum

Key Stage 3

The national curriculum is divided into four key assessment areas: reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, grammar, vocabulary and spoken language. All of these are incorporated in our comprehensive theme based schemes.

Reading

In our programmes of study students are introduced to a wide range of literature both in guided reading and in our schemes of work. They are encouraged to read widely and independently for enjoyment and their progress is tracked through the Accelerated Reader programme which is available for students throughout Key Stage 3. Students can access this programme at home, providing an invaluable resource to parents who can track their progress.

Within our theme based schemes students will experience a range of genres, including plays, novels, non-fiction texts, short stories and poetry. The schemes are built to prepare students for the rigours of the new final examinations and also to provide them with the skills to become literate citizens of the future with an understanding of the world and its cultures both past and present.

Writing

Students will be taught to write accurately in a variety of styles. They will be taught to write concisely with an awareness of purpose and audience. There will be regular opportunities for extended writing to provide students with an opportunity to develop a love and satisfaction in their own writing. Next step will be given regularly through DNA to ensure students develop these skills.

Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Vocabulary

Students continue to build on their knowledge of spelling, punctuation, grammar and vocabulary from Key Stage 2. This will involve regular spelling tests and developing their use of a wider range of punctuation. In addition they will regularly analyse the impact of vocabulary choices and grammar in the texts they read, as well as using these for effect in their own writing. Students will be encouraged to use Standard English in their own writing and language terminology when discussing their work and the work of others.

Speaking and Listening

Within schemes of work students will have regular opportunities to develop their spoken language within a range of formal and informal contexts. There will be classroom discussion groups, short presentations and short speaking tasks. Through these students will be encouraged to express their own ideas and develop, not only their oral skills, but their listening skills too.

Year 7

In Year 7 we aim to develop a love of English and our schemes provide a breadth of learning experiences. Students begin by studying myths and legends, followed by the Horowitz Horror – The Writer’s Craft and Macbeth. Through these units we provide students with opportunities to become confident readers and writers with a particular focus on their technical accuracy. In addition we emphasise the need to read and we introduce students to a series of challenges to reinforce the Accelerated Reader programme.

Year 8

In Year 8 we continue with our aim to engage students but with an increased emphasis on challenge. Our schemes include Detective stories, The Cult of Celebrity, a Children’s Classic unit, alongside a study of Biography. Through these schemes students are trained to reinforce their reading and writing skills at a higher level in preparation for the rigours of GCSE.

Year 9

In year 9 students will consolidate and develop the skills they learnt in years 7 and 8 in preparation for their GCSE course. They are also introduced to the more challenging texts that they will experience at GCSE. These include a study of pre-nineteenth century texts and an introduction to a selection of the poems that are included in the GCSE anthology.

Assessment

Assessments are undertaken at the end of each unit and these will inform our teacher assessments. Students are informed of the results of their assessment and they are provided with a clear next step to enable them to move to the next level in their learning.

Key Stage 4

Students follow the AQA English language and English literature specification 2015 which was first examined in 2017. This specification follows the new assessment model of 100% terminal exam.

In Year 10 students will study the Anthology Power and Conflict poetry, A Christmas Carol, Jane Eyre or Jekyll and Hyde and Romeo and Juliet. Alongside the Literature texts the Language skills will be developed. They will also complete the spoken language endorsement.

In Year 11 students study Blood Brothers, Language skills will be further developed and there will be a spiral curriculum to allow a methodical revision of the Year 10 texts.

Throughout these years there will be three opportunities for formal assessment for both Language and Literature.

English Language

Students will sit two exams in GCSE English Language:

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing.

Section A: students read one literary fiction text and answer four questions.

Section B: students write either a descriptive or narrative piece of writing.

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

Section A: involves reading one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text and answer four questions.

Section B: will be writing to present a viewpoint.

English Literature

Students will sit two exams in GCSE English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel.

Section A: Students will answer one question on their Shakespeare play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B: Students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry.

Section A: Modern texts: Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B: Students complete a comparison essay from two poems from the anthology

Section C: Students are given an unseen poem which is analysed, then compared with a second poem.

Spoken Language Endorsement

There is also a non-examination assessment in spoken language. Students will prepare and deliver a speech on a topic of their own choosing. They will be encouraged to answer questions and respond to feedback. This attracts a separate endorsement and carries a 0% weighting towards GCSE.

Students are given study texts as required. However, these are for class study only. Students are not able to use these texts to take notes for future revision. It is therefore important that students obtain their own copies of the chosen modern text, 19th Century novel and Shakespeare play.

Revision guides will be available from the department who have created lots of resources to support these studies

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty>

<https://www.senecalearning.com/blog/gcse-english-literature-revision/>

<https://www2.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w>

Further advice on revision resources can be obtained from the department.

Extra-Curricular

The English Department has developed links with the UEA and The Norwich Writing Centre. We regularly participate in initiatives providing students with a range of exciting and inspiring opportunities. Last year these included an opportunity to create an anthology of writing from Year 9 students.