

Overview of Curriculum for English – Academic Year 2021-22

Year Group	September	October	November	December
7	Students begin Year 7 with a transitional unit based on the novel <i>Treasure Island</i> . Through exploration of the text, students will develop their understanding of characterisation, stereotypes and the Golden Age of Piracy. Delving into the novel, they will understand how to plan a narrative that utilises an effective mood or atmosphere as well as moral conundrums. Students will develop their creative writing skills by also utilising engaging narrative hooks that will help them complete work that will become a treasure of their own.			
8	Students will discover how the social changes in the Victorian era gave rise to the dominance of the gothic genre. They will explore characters of the grotesque and the sublime and analyse how writers create gothic settings designed to chill and excite their readers – before creating their own. Students will consider the darker side of the human mind and how it played out in some literature’s most memorable stories, such as <i>Dracula</i> and <i>Frankenstein</i> . Alongside this, students will read <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> – the epitome of gothic horror.			
9	Year 9 begins with the study of dystopian worlds. Students will learn how George Orwell combined his political views with art in his classic <i>Animal Farm</i> – a story which warns of the power to be gained through manipulation and propaganda. As students work through this unit, they will study the rhetorical techniques used in <i>Animal Farm</i> and other great speeches, learning how power is gained and retained through the clever manipulation of language.			
10	Students begin their GCSE study with the literature text <i>An Inspector Calls</i> . Themes of class, gender and morality will be explored as students discover and debate upon who is to blame for the death of Eva Smith. Students will learn to analyse a literature text and apply their knowledge of context, theme and language, along with the authorial message of playwright JB Priestley.		Through the study of excellent short stories and descriptive texts, Year 10 students will learn about how to craft their own creative piece. They will pay close attention to the structure, vocabulary and linguistic devices used in creative writing and produce writing of their own.	We return to the themes of class and morality in our study of <i>A Christmas Carol</i> . Students will explore the redemption of Scrooge’s character and learn how his attitudes and the experiences of the Cratchit family reflect Victorian England and the authorial intent of Charles Dickens.
11	In Y11, students begin the year with consolidation of their Y10 studies. This term, we will focus on the analysis of fiction extracts and students will practise their creative writing skills. In Literature, students will revise <i>A Christmas Carol</i> and prepare to respond to unseen poetry.			Students will analyse and compare non-fiction texts and practise writing in several non-fiction styles. Students will revise <i>An Inspector Calls</i> and <i>Macbeth</i> , along with poetry for Literature.
Year Group	January	February	March	April
7	Year 7 students will be immersed in Greek mythology, Roman gods and biblical allusions in this unit. They will be transported back to the tales which inspired and enthralled western society from its earliest days. From epic journeys and monsters to gods and ordinary men, students will discover the roots from which all modern-day literature grew. Alongside this, they will read a translation of Homer’s <i>Odyssey</i> – an epic tale to beat them all!			
8	This term, Y8 will delve back into the historical issue of gender inequality. Students will consider how the genders are represented in works of non fiction and literature., from <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> to Emma Watson’s speech to the UN. They will consider how attitudes towards gender equality have changed and how this is reflected in the texts we read. Students will discover the ways writers convey their feelings and how the power of their rhetoric contributed to change in society. Alongside this, students will read <i>A Doll’s House</i> , a play which made suggestions of women’s struggles and gender equality years ahead of its time – and was banned for doing so!			
9	Students will study the presentation of love in English Literature spanning over 1000 years of history. Beginning with ancient courtship, students will examine extracts from texts such as Ovid’s ‘The Art of Love’ then travel through the Medieval era comparing Mallory’s presentation of doomed love in ‘L’Morte de Arthur’ to Shakespeare’s tragic <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , learning about the complex courtship of the time presented in literary form. They will then explore the way			Students will consider the place of morality in our literature and wider culture. They will study fables and the early morality plays <i>Everyman</i> and <i>Dr</i>

	that Victorian marriage became a curious social game in texts by Robert Browning and Thomas Hardy. Finally, they'll explode into the modern world of poetry about internet dating and a celebration of LGBTQ+ love!		<i>Faustus</i> before progressing to more recent tales of morality. Students will explore the structure and content of this genre and consider the preoccupation humankind has with it, before crafting a moral tale of their own.
10	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> continued.	Students will study Shakespeare's masterpiece, <i>Macbeth</i> . They will learn why the play was important in the post-gunpowder plot era of 1606 and what messages it held about kingship, women, and society. Students will explore the intoxication of power experienced by <i>Macbeth</i> and the toxic ruler he becomes. They will consider the concept of evil and how the role of women linked to that in Jacobean England. Throughout, students will learn to analyse Shakespeare's language, theme and character and link their ideas to context.	
11	Students will analyse and compare non-fiction texts and practise writing in several non-fiction styles. Students will revise <i>An Inspector Calls</i> and <i>Macbeth</i> , along with poetry for Literature.		Final revision of all knowledge and skills for English Language and literature.
Year Group	May	June	July
7	This term, Y7 will delve back into the historical issue of racial segregation. Students will consider what prompted works of literature such as <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> and <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> to be written and why speeches and diaries such as those by Martin Luther King and Anne Frank came to exist. Students will discover the ways writers convey their feelings and how the power of their rhetoric contributed to change in society. Alongside this unit, students will read the American Classic ' <i>Of Mice and Men</i> ', drawing out the sensitive issues of segregation in 1930s California.		
8	'Politics, Propaganda and Poetic Licence' will complete Y8 with students studying <i>Richard III</i> and learning about how both writers and the characters they create can lie, mislead, and manipulate. The character of Richard becomes a master of propaganda and political intrigue to manoeuvre his way to power – however this is poetic licence, not historical fact. Interlinked with non-fiction texts, extracts from <i>Captain Corelli's Mandolin</i> and the poetry of WWI, this unit encourages students to become critical readers, and not believe all that they read. Alongside this unit, students read <i>Anthem</i> – a story of oppression and tyranny set in a very different world to <i>Richard III</i> .		
9	Morality continued.	Students will begin to learn the skills of accessing and exploring poetry in this unit. 'All the World's a Stage' takes students through the seven ages of man in the form of poetry clusters on each theme. They will study the beauty of poetry's language, structure, and form. They will also learn how to write critically and comparatively about poetic pairs, paving the way for future success at GCSE and beyond!	
10	Through the study of excellent non-fiction texts, Year 10 students will learn about how to craft their own speeches, articles, and letters. They will pay close attention to the structure, vocabulary and linguistic devices used in the art of rhetoric and produce writing of their own.	Y10 students will spend the summer term studying poetry from the AQA anthology. Themes of power and conflict, in all its terrifying forms, will be explored through the work of poets ranging from the Romantic Movement's Blake and Wordsworth to modern day poets such as Duffy and Armitage, stopping off for some WWI poetry from Wilfred Owen enroute. The poems will be compared for their themes of power and conflict, whether the messages be of awe, sadness, terror, or disgust.	
11	Revision and Preparation for Examinations This will include: Analysing fiction and non-fiction texts, comparison skills, creative and non-fiction writing, poetry, <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> , and <i>An Inspector Calls</i> .		