

English Curriculum Statement

Curriculum Intent

The purpose of the English curriculum is as follows:

- To develop students' understanding of themselves and the world they live in through the study of literature
- To ensure that students can articulate their viewpoints and perspectives through effective communication

Vision and values

Our vision for the study of English is to offer a broad and rich experience of Literature and the use of the English Language, through opportunities to explore an extensive range of texts from across different time and cultural contexts. Our students explore how writers' use a variety of different forms for a range of purposes and effects and are supported in developing their own writing and spoken language skills. From Year 7 all the way through to Sixth Form, our students are encouraged to appreciate and develop a love for the written word and how they can use language and their developing understanding to heighten their own experiences and learning. Studying English should broaden thinking skills, improve literacy standards, and ensure students can utilise their voice in society. Our curriculum is skills based with the use of a diverse and engaging stimulus to enable the development of those skills as students' progress from Key Stage 3 to GCSE and beyond. We want to develop life-long English learners, who seek opportunities to continue to enhance their experience of the world through reading.

Planning and sequencing

Our diverse, balanced, and inclusive curriculum has been adapted in response to the more prescriptive and narrow Key Stage 4 curriculum, enabling students to be exposed to literature from different contexts. Literature is at the heart of language teaching at Key Stage 3 to support the analytical and creative skills required at Key Stage 4. Our text choices are from a variety of different times and cultures, covering a broad range of themes and ideas to promote equality and diversity within our curriculum. Thematically, we explore concepts that transcend the different key stages, and which enable students to offer their own viewpoints and perspectives and make connections between the texts they have studied.

While planning and sequencing the curriculum, we ensure that the necessary skills around reading, writing and spoken language are introduced, regularly practised, and reviewed.



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Implementation

Lesson time is an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the study of English. We use a range of engaging practices and tools to support students' progress and attainment, including flipped learning to prepare students; extensive questioning to develop understanding as we learn and media resources to support our curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to contribute texts they love to the curriculum so we can really foster that passion for the subject within the students we teach. In addition to the in-class provision for students, we have a range of enrichment opportunities for all students to be involved in. We offer a debating club, a creative writing club, a journalism club as well as masterclasses for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students. We also celebrate milestone literary events such as World Book Day and National Storytelling Week; we relish any chance to allow for creativity and see the flair our students have for writing. Homework and out of class research tasks allow us to consolidate learning and deepen student understanding, through their own independent explorations.

