

English Department

Curriculum Intent



Our Ethos

Our Curriculum is designed to ensure that our students are exposed to a wide-range of fiction and non-fiction texts so that they can appreciate our literary heritage and engage with modern texts that build on this cultural understanding. Students will develop the ability to comprehend, infer and analyse texts so that they become critical readers capable of navigating the digital and print world. Our texts have been chosen to expose our students to a range of perspectives on a range of topics linked by Literature's Universal Themes, British Values and our current social trends. Students use what they have read to allow them to develop into effective writers. With a dominant focus on accuracy and clarity in Key Stage 3 before focussing on writing for effect in Key Stage 4, we aim to ensure all our students can effectively express themselves by the end of their secondary education.

Our Aims

- Whilst our Curriculum is shaped by genre/ text type, knowledge and skills are spiralled throughout, allowing teachers to proactively and effectively identify and close gaps before building new skills and knowledge with our students. Students are asked to frequently recall, apply and link to prior knowledge increasing their ability to become critical thinkers and successful learners at GCSE and post-16.
- Skills and knowledge are divided into Reading and Writing and broken into strands within. MTPs, lesson resources, assessment and progress checks are all linked to these, with students expected to achieve specific skills by the end of each term to be making 'good progress' against our Curriculum. Achieving students will be challenged by their teachers by aiming for the skills in the above level. Struggling students will receive adaptive teaching in the classroom, differentiated resources and support to scaffold their learning. As such, all our students will leave their secondary education as competent readers, writers and orators so that they can access post-16 education, have increased opportunities and better physical and mental health.

Skills

- Pupils will be highly skilled users of the English language, being able to adapt their speech and writing for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Pupils will be able to understand, infer and analyse a variety of texts, written or spoken.
- Pupils will be able to construct an effective argument both verbally and in the written form.
- Pupils will be able to work both independently and collectively.
- Pupils will be active listeners and effective speakers.

Knowledge

- Pupils will know and be able to use a wide range of Tier 2 and 3 vocabulary to allow them to articulately express their thoughts and feelings.
- Pupils will know and be able to effectively use language features expected in a wide range of text types / purposes / genres as to communicate with success.
- Pupils will have studied writers belonging to the literary canon and understand how they have influenced later works and societal reform.
- Pupils will know how to read critically so that they can develop informed opinions.
- Pupils will understand how social and historical context impacts on a text. This will include a range of cultures differing to their own as to appreciate the wealth of experiences present in our country and the wider world.
- Pupils will understand how to structure examination responses.
- Pupils will know the importance of being critical thinkers, avid readers and lifelong learners.