

English Curriculum Guide

Year 7

What will my son learn?

Autumn term

- 'Me, Myself and I' – As an introduction to English, students will be focusing on different styles of writing based on an autobiographical theme. This will include creative writing, letter writing, diary entries and autobiographical/biographical writing.
- A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens' classic tale is read and key questions, ideas and attitudes are looked at.

Spring Term

- Poems from Other Cultures – Poetry is an important component of the KS4 curriculum and we aim to ensure students are confident with all poetry and poets. We like to have fun with poetry and to consider big ideas through this medium.
- Discover London – this unit of work looks at London and the writers, poets, artists and visitors have written about our great city in many different forms.

Summer Term

- Romeo and Juliet – Shakespeare is an integral part of the English Curriculum and we begin with the Bard's eponymous love story. We encourage a lot of risk in exploring the language, the setting, many adaptations of the play and the interaction of the different characters.
- Short Films – students will look at two – three short films and study their structure and the techniques used. As a story telling medium, this will be compared with traditional story telling writing.

How will my son be assessed?

- You son will be assessed throughout the unit of work, with homework tasks, online assessments (specifically Doodle), research projects over a period of time, class work and end of unit examinations. His teacher will look at the overall response to the various tasks and assess his performance and level of skills progressively. Each unit of work has either a reading or writing focus, and 8 specific skills will be monitored closely. These skills are chosen to reflect a breadth and depth to the requirements of the English curriculum. These skills are shared with your son at the beginning of the unit of work and should be referred to throughout. He should assess his own ability and compare his progress throughout the year.

How can I support my son with English?

- The most important thing you can do to support your son in English is to encourage his independent reading at home. Reading a wide range of texts – novels, non-fiction, newspapers and magazines – will infinitely help your son access the texts he studies at school and the exams he will take. Reading little and often is paramount to ensure your son has the ability to sustain his concentration over a period of time, build up his vocabulary and observe good writing practices.
- When your son has homework, look over it. Encourage him to write more and to complete it before the due date. Leaving a day before the work is due can help in the revision process.
- When your son has research homework, it's important he does not 'cut and paste' the information. It must be read and summarised in his own words.

