

English Curriculum Guide

Year 9

What will my son learn?

Autumn term

- Lord of the Flies or Curious Incident of the Dog In the Night-Time – students will explore the themes, characters, setting, ideas and attitudes in the novel, and link with ideas from other novels and their own experiences and thoughts.
- Othello (4 key extracts) and Robert Browning poems – students will explore the connection these texts have. The unit is designed to stretch students and prepare them for the requirements of GCSE.

Spring Term

- Travel Writing - students will review a number of types of writing through the medium of travel. This will include blogs, fictionalised accounts, letters, diary entries, biographies and autobiographies, brochures and magazine.
- 19th Century Fiction, including extracts from Jane Eyre, Great Expectations and The Tell-Tale Heart. This unit specifically compliments requirements at KS4 – students will have to be familiar with a wide range of vocabulary and the language of earlier writers.

Summer Term

- The Crucible – students will have the opportunity to perform and prepare for a close analysis of the text, similar to the process they will undertake at KS4.
- EBACC Preparation – Students will look at reading and writing tasks for EBACC requirements which reflect the skills of the Language Papers (1 and 2) at KS4.

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. As your son approaches his GCSE's, this will become even more important.
- 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.

