

# English Curriculum Guide

## Year 8

What will my son learn?		
<b>Autumn term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Of Mice and Men – 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.</li><li>• War Poetry – students will study 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century poets who write about their experiences and thoughts on war. Many of the poems are written about the First World War, but we look to modern poets and modern ideas about conflict.</li></ul>	<b>Spring Term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Touching the Void – students will look at extracts from this autobiography and other examples of non-fiction writing.</li><li>• The Tempest – students will look at Shakespeare's drama with a particular focus on the use of language and how power is presented in the play.</li></ul>	<b>Summer Term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sherlock Holmes and Crime Fiction– students will read a selection of Sherlock Holmes short stories as well as other crime fiction. This will support approaches to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fiction.</li><li>• Documentaries – students will see a range of documentaries and approach the analysis of them in a similar way to a novel. They will deconstruct key ideas and examine features used by the film makers.</li></ul>

### 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.

