

KS3 Curriculum Overview

English

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Curriculum Intent including key skills and key concepts

Overview
The KS3 curriculum contains two broad topics per year. Within each topic there is a high quality main text (usually GCSE text and/or Shakespeare) as well as secondary literary material including poems and short stories. Each topic also includes complementary non-fiction texts. It is designed to have a balance of reading and writing as well as plenty of opportunities for Oracy development. There is explicit focus on the teaching of SPaG and vocabulary.
Oracy across all KS3 classes: group and paired discussions; drama role play; talk for writing; speeches; vocabulary development

Year 7
Topic 1: 'Fantasy'
Reading: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'; 'Alice in Wonderland'; extracts from 'Harry Potter and other fantasy texts; fantasy poetry and theme park advertisements.
Writing: Promoting a theme park; creating additional characters and chapters for 'Alice'; diary entries; fantasy story.
SPaG: capital letters; basic sentence punctuation; commas and apostrophes.
Topic 2: Society
Reading: 'Animal Farm'; 'Watership Down' and 'Sleeping Beauty' summaries; Range of poetry from 'Power and Conflict' anthology; extracts from 'The Communist Manifesto'; Obama speech.
Writing: script writing; letters and diaries; descriptive writing; persuasive speech.
SPaG: capital letters; basic sentence punctuation; commas and apostrophes.

Year 8
Topic 1 – Detectives
Reading: 'Tales of the Unexpected'; Sherlock Holmes short stories; Armitage and Duffy poetry; variety of news articles relating to crime.
Writing: character profiles; argument writing; detective short story.
SPaG: Year 7 requirements + speech marks and parenthesis.
Topic 2 – The Environment
Reading: 'The Tempest'; extracts from 'Touching the Void' and Ellen MacArthur's autobiography; extracts from 'Robinson Crusoe'; 'Nettles' and 'Patrolling Barnevat.
Writing: re-creative tasks changing genre and perspective; autobiography writing; scripts; writing persuasive speeches.
SPaG: Year 7 requirements + speech marks and parenthesis.

Year 9
Topic 1 – 'Of Mice and Men'
Reading: 'Of Mice and Men'; range of travel writing; poetry of other cultures.
Writing: 'dramatic monologues; descriptive writing; travel writing.
SPaG: Y7 & Y8 requirements + colons and semi-colons.
Topic 2 – 'Macbeth' and the Supernatural
Reading: 'Macbeth'; 'woman in Black extract; range of non-fiction texts relating to the supernatural; non-fiction contextual texts for 'Macbeth'.
Writing: Descriptive and narrative writing; writing to express viewpoint.
SPaG: Y7 & Y8 requirements + colons and semi-colons.

Rationale for KS3 Curriculum

As a rural, coastal school, we find that a lack of cultural capital is a major barrier to students being able to access the curriculum when they begin their GCSE courses. This is why the vast majority of texts are current or past GCSE exam texts. The non-fiction element of each topic is linked to the major text to enrich and enhance the students' understanding of the text.

We have a specific focus developing vocabulary as many of our students come from 'word poor' households. We strive to develop their vocabulary, particularly tier 2 vocabulary, to give them the tools to express themselves effectively.

Each unit builds in specific time for reflection and for students to make improvements to their work.

The graduated SPaG requirements are to reinforce and practise skills developed at primary school.

We believe firmly that all students are entitled to a rich and varied experience of both literary and non-literary texts.

Relevant Department Interventions and Support and Access Arrangements

The dept liaise with the Access Arrangement assessor from Y9.

All students follow the MTP for each topic although this is readily differentiated for higher and lower ability students.

Some students also supplement their usual topic work with activities from the 'Catapult' textbook series.

A very small number of students in Y7 & Y8 (currently) are extracted from English lessons for intensive literacy work.

AR is used across Y7 & Y8 to promote reading and for teachers to be able to monitor progress and intervene in appropriate circumstances.

Enrichment Opportunities

Year 7
KS3 Speaking and Listening Competition – judged by The Rotary Club
Rotary Young writer's Competition
Exmoor Dark Skies Poetry Competition
Willy Wonka Cross-curricular literacy week
Appledore Book Festival writing competition
Appledore Book Festival invited authors

Year 8
KS3 Speaking and Listening Competition – judged by The Rotary Club
Rotary Young writer's Competition
Exmoor Dark Skies Poetry Competition
Appledore Book Festival writing competition
Appledore Book Festival invited authors

Year 9
KS3 Speaking and Listening Competition – judged by The Rotary Club
Rotary Young writer's Competition
Exmoor Dark Skies Poetry Competition
Appledore Book Festival writing competition

Links to Key Stage 4 and 5

KS4 Links
Our KS3 assessment objectives are linked completely with those of GCSE English language (and the context AO for GCSE literature)
When assessing reading, students are taught the necessary skills for preparing for and answering GCSE questions: language; structure; evaluating writers; comparing perspectives; creative writing and writing to express viewpoint. Students are also encouraged to develop oracy skills in preparation for their S&L NEA.
Key terminology is taught throughout the KS that is embedded by the time students are ready for GCSE.

Topic 2 for Y9 is effectively the beginning of their GCSE course and students are further introduced to the exam style questions that are used in GCSE.

KS5 Links
From Y7, students are encouraged to use literary texts as a springboard for writing. They investigate genre, perspective and other features and produce re-created texts. This links directly to the A Level 'The Great Gatsby' question where students need to recreate an extract from a different perspective.
Key terminology is taught throughout the KS that is inevitably of great use for the A Level English language and Literature course we follow.

Attached Documentation

Document	Tick if present
Department Improvement Plan	
Exam Review	
Curriculum and Progression Map for Year 7-13	
Dept Assessment Calendar 7-9	
Assessment Tasks & Criteria	
Terminal Assessment(s)	
Schemes of Work Year 7-9	