

Year 8 English

Subject Intent

The English Curriculum is designed to enable every student to unlock their potential by building their cultural capital, through mastery of reading, writing and speaking.

What will students be studying?

In year 8, students will further their understanding and knowledge of Shakespearean drama through the study of 'Much Ado about Nothing', focusing on the theme of gender and exploring authorial intent. During this year students will look at how writers' structure narratives to evoke emotion in a reader through the study of 'Detective Fiction' – applying their understanding to their own creative writing. Finally, in Year 8, students will learn the importance of rhetoric and how authors apply this to persuade, warn and criticise through the study of Orwell's classic political diatribe; 'Animal Farm'.

Cycle 1 – 'Much Ado about Nothing'

Cycle 2 – 'Detective Fiction'

Cycle 3 – 'Animal Farm'

How are teaching groups organised?

In English, teaching groups are mixed attainment.

The progress of students is reviewed regularly throughout the year to assess the level of challenge or support needed.

Threshold Concepts

- 1. Authorial Intent:** All texts are constructs, created by their author
- 2. Context:** Texts are informed by their historical, social and political contexts, which influences reader interpretation
- 3. Rhetoric:** Every text is an argument and every writer crafts and argument
- 4. Narrative:** Every text is a story, and every writer is a composer of deliberate narratives
- 5. Patterns:** Texts make use of patterns, all of which are conveyed through language, form structure and symbols to create meaning
- 6. Grammar and Meaning:** Writing is constructed through grammar to effectively communicate

How will students be assessed?

In English students will be assessed through reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and multiple choice quizzes to test key knowledge. This will occur during key moments in each topic to ensure students are both supported and challenged appropriately. Students are assessed against the threshold concepts which are formed through key aspects of the English curriculum such as exploring writers' intentions and establishing your own interpretations.

Formal Knowledge Assessment Tasks (KATs) will take place at the end of each cycle.

How will we challenge/support students learning?

In English we believe that both challenging and supporting learners is very important.

In English we offer a range of targeted intervention sessions to support students' learning as well as a host of extra-curricular activities and enrichment trips.

How is homework set?

English Homework in KS3 is set on Sparx Reader. Year 7 through 9 will have 30 minutes reading homework per week. A reminder will also be set on Teams

Useful resources, website and extra curricular links to support learning.

[KS3 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Shakespeare Curriculum | Royal Shakespeare Company](#) | [Royal Shakespeare Company](#)