

Intent:

In English Language, we aim to develop knowledge and skills which will enable students to participate in the world and engage with the literature they read and receive from a variety of sources, including online. In English Literature, our goal is to inspire a love of literature from a range of diverse cultures and eras; embracing the literary canon and introducing contemporary authors through whom students can conceptualise their own lives and empathise with others.

It is our intention to ensure that the English curriculum inspires students to be curious and have a lifelong love of reading and writing. To develop an understanding of how literature is both rich and influential. Teaching equips students with the knowledge and skills to be literate and be able to appreciate and contribute to the creative arts.

As students progress, their growing knowledge of language and literature helps them to deepen their understanding of literature over time and become more confident in their analysis of implicit meaning; using evidence from diverse sources to justify their opinions. They are also able to use skills acquired throughout the course to formulate coherent, cogent arguments. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

Our curriculum has been chosen to ensure students are aware of the rich diversity of language and literature throughout history, so that they are able to appreciate the depth and power of both the English literary heritage, and that of other nations, and learn from the rich canon. It provides learners with opportunities to read widely for pleasure across a range of high quality texts in the genres of prose, poetry and drama. They will acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the use of grammatical terminology, to criticise and analyse what they read. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, using knowledge and vocabulary gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing.

Implementation:

In English, we draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative, as well as real, and relevant contexts. We study a wide range of texts from Shakespeare through to the 21st century, including literature and literary non-fiction; as well as other writing such as reviews, letters and journalism. Each text studied makes significant demands on students in terms of content, structure and the quality of language but they also support students in developing their own writing by providing effective models.

We use a range of different teaching and learning strategies to ensure all students are challenged, engaged and enjoy English lessons. Within Literature lessons we use different media, such as videos and documentaries, to teach context and explore the authors' intent as well as interactive games and quizzes to develop the students' knowledge of plot and character. Whilst in English language, we aim to make learning as 'real' and relevant as we can to a student's experience of the world around them by choosing topical subjects, such as social media and identity debates, to explore, analyse, discuss and write about. We encourage them to use and build on their own experiences to communicate, in order to take an informative and persuasive approach to transactional writing.

Beyond the classroom:

Students are exposed to as many drama productions, local writers and workshops as we are able to arrange. We also provide opportunities to write creatively through competitions and close liaison with the library. Students are also learning about journalistic skills and integrity through their involvement in the independently produced school magazine.