



English Curriculum Overview

Key Stage 3- Year 8

Overview

The Year 8 curriculum has been designed to spark students' interests and creativity. It is designed to challenge students, promote valid and respectful discussion and debate, as well as introduce them to a wide range of different texts and genres. Within different units' students will develop a wide variety of skills. These will include analysing language and its impact on the audience/ reader; discussing how structure within a text is used for effect and how context helps to impact writers and their work. Students will also study a wide range of non-fiction texts including newspaper articles and speeches and learn how to use language and structure to argue their own point of view successfully. There are also literacy lessons, focussing on spelling, punctuation and grammar. Students will also have opportunities to write creatively, both within the texts and genres they are studying and beyond.

Novel Unit

Students will study a full novel whilst analyzing its genre features and context. Students will be able to cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis. We will also determine a central idea of the text and analyze its development over the course of the text including how meaning is shaped by context. The texts shift over years, but we will cover Roald Dahl's biography *Boy* as well as *Animal Farm*.

Poetry Unit

Students will be introduced learners to a variety of poems and songs with themes that are of interest to them. Learners will engage in different activities that aim to develop their appreciation of the themes and emotions expressed in poems and songs, acquaint them with poetic language and features, enhance their cultural awareness, stimulate their imagination, and foster their creative use of English. Throughout the module, learners will write/rewrite poems or lyrics and present them through various means.

Persuasive Writing

Students will study the genre of persuasive writing (particularly speeches). They will be able to analyze a wide range of historical speeches—from Martin Luther King's *I have a Dream* speech to the first British Royal Christmas Message of 1932 written by Rudyard Kipling and delivered by King George V.—as well as writing their own speeches. Students will be cognizant of elements relating to purpose, audience, form, and author (rhetorical awareness).

Media Literacy

Students will learn to identify different types of media and understand the messages they're sending. Students take in a huge amount of information from a wide array of sources, far beyond the traditional media (TV, radio, newspapers, and magazines) of most parents' youth. Therefore, they will learn about traditional and modern modes of media, such as; text messages, advertising and social media. Furthermore, they will be critically understanding various film's purpose, audience, and director/producer.



Film as Text

Students will enrich their knowledge of different aspects of film analysis and apply it to the study of short films. They will be able to critically analyze different areas of cinematography (e.g. camera shots, angles/movements, camera shots, editing techniques, and so forth). Furthermore, they will be critically understanding various film's purpose, audience, and director/producer.

News Articles and Reports

Students will study various news articles and reports whilst exploring the concept of fake news & propaganda. Students will be able to critically examine news and determine fact from opinion. They will also be able to write their news articles by doing their own primary and secondary research.