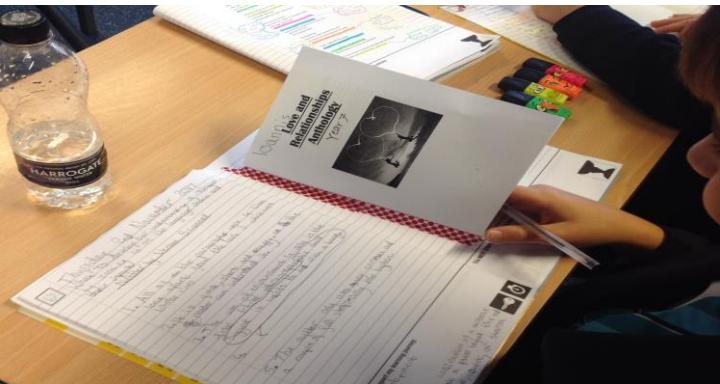


# How We Teach English at KS3

*Success depends on an effective partnership between students, home and school.*



# The Curriculum in Year 7

Over the course of the year, students will study a variety of different topics which will allow them to develop a wealth of skills that will stand them in good stead for the future. We aim to really ignite their curiously and passion for the written and spoken word and build their knowledge of the world.



## Autumn term

- Autumn 1 – Classics and Adventure stories**
- A Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
  - Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
  - The Grimm's Tales
  - Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

## Autumn 2 – Poetry

- Theme: Identity  
Poems sourced from around the world  
Progress Test

## Spring term

### Spring 1 – Novel

- Frankenstein by Mary Shelley  
Animal Farm by George Orwell  
Twelve Minutes to Midnight by Christopher Edge  
Parvana's Journey by Deborah Ellis  
The Fastest Boy in the World by Elizabeth Laird

### Spring 2 – Unlocking Secrets

- Freedom of Speech  
Non-fiction  
Conspiracy theories  
Persuasive writing  
Discursive writing  
Progress Test

## Summer term

### Summer 1 – Shakespeare

- Much Ado About Nothing  
Twelfth Night  
The Tempest

FEEDBACK PLEASE!

### Summer 2 – Shakespeare and Community Project

- Progress Test  
IDEAS!

# The Curriculum in Year 8

Over the course of the year, students will study a variety of different topics which will allow them to develop a wealth of skills that will stand them in good stead for the future. We aim to really ignite their curiously and passion for the written and spoken word and build their knowledge of the world.



## Autumn term

### Autumn 1 – Novel

Dracula  
To Kill a Mockingbird  
Northern Lights  
Trash  
Once

### Autumn 2 – Events that shaped the world

Non-fiction  
Discursive writing  
Progress Test

## Spring term

### Spring 1 – Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet



### Spring 2 – Poetry Anthology

Theme: Nature  
Poems sourced from around the world  
Progress Test

## Summer term

### Summer 1 – Play

An Inspector Calls  
Journey's End

### Summer 2 – Coming of Age and The Coral Island

Creative writing  
Progress Test



# What Skills Are The Students Developing?

Throughout KS3 students develop their reading, writing and communication skills. The ways we build on their experience at KS2 is by increasing the level of challenge in texts, deepening their understanding of the world and teaching them how to analyse the use of language.

## **Key skills that we focus on during KS3 are:**

- Deconstruct and reconstruct different styles of writing e.g. letters/ speeches/ articles
- The analysis of the written word
- Understanding the writer's purpose and intention and that text's place in the canon
- Develop an appreciation of the writer's craft be it through poetry or prose
- Develop their voice through exploratory talk in one oracy lesson a week.



# Bridging The Gap From KS2

- As a department we spend a considerable amount of time with our feeder primary schools to get an accurate understanding of how English is taught
- The demands at KS2 have changed significantly. Students are expected to have a greater understanding of grammar and technical terminology, a wider range of vocabulary and engage with a variety of texts that enable us to work with them to gain a reading age of 17 as soon as they can!
- We focus on building understanding of terminology but with the focus on the IMPACT of these techniques
- The challenge of texts is far greater at KS2 level. At KS3 students continue to be presented with a whole host of texts be it biographical texts to stories from 1900s, all in the aim of ensuring the knowledge and skills they have been taught at KS2 is strengthened but also to ensure they are prepared for the demands of KS4.

# How do we assess progress?



## Progress Checks

- Student work is constantly assessed during and between lessons, as the teachers are refining their teaching material and methods to ensure lessons and learning is sequenced and broaden and deepen knowledge based on how the previous lesson has gone
- Around twice a half term there will be written feedback in your child's book and a feedback workshop where students hone skills

## Progress Tests

- These are a more formal examination and take place once a term
- These tests are designed to measure your child's progress as they move through the school
- To support students with this process, a member of the English Leadership Team will plan a standardised preparation lesson for all teachers to deliver prior to the test.
- These tests are then marked using our Bridging The Gap booklet; a mark scheme which focuses on **READING** and **WRITING** skills. This is to keep the focus solely on which skills they need to work on – something they are used to at KS2.

# Progress Tests: Year 7



**Autumn term**



**Spring term**



**When is it?**

Spring 2, Week 2

**What is the topic?**

Discursive/persuasive  
writing

**Summer term**



**When is it?**

Summer 2, Week 3

**What is the topic?**

Shakespeare

**What will they be asked  
to do?**

Analyse an extract of a  
play

# Progress Tests: Year 8



**Autumn term**



**Discursive writing**



**Spring term**

**When is it?**  
Spring 2, Week 3  
**What is the topic?**  
Poetry



**Summer term**

**When is it?**  
Summer 2  
**What is the topic?**  
Creative Writing  
**What will they be asked to do?**  
Write a story or a description based on a picture

# Progress Tests: Year 8



**Autumn term**



**Discursive writing**



**Spring term**

**When is it?**  
Spring 2, Week 3  
**What is the topic?**  
Poetry



**Summer term**

**When is it?**  
Summer 2  
**What is the topic?**  
Creative Writing  
**What will they be asked to do?**  
Write a story or a description based on a picture

# Intervention

- We run an intervention programme in Year 7 and 8
- Based on reading and improving reading ages
- We teach explicit reading strategies in all lessons



*Just ten minutes reading a day boosts school achievement.'*

# Why Does Reading Matter?



- Nationally 1 in 6 adults has a reading age below the level expected for an 11 year old (NLT, 2010)
- Young people cannot afford to only read material under their reading age as they won't develop and improve as readers.
- Reading material in the English Language GCSE is set at the reading age of 17



# How Can You Support Your Child with English?

## Doddle Homework

English teachers set homework at the beginning of each half term. You too can access your child's homework and see the date it needs to be completed by

## Prepare For Progress Tests

Students are given plenty of time to prepare for their progress tests. Check when these are and discuss a plan of action be it through sourcing revision material, re-reading extracts or stories or completing the preparation tasks set on Doddle

## Reading

- Encourage reading for pleasure!
- Encourage reading a wide variety of texts be it comics/ newspapers/ columnists/ bloggers

## Knowledge about the world

- Discuss recent news events and weigh up both sides of the argument
- Review articles or news and discuss the opinion presented
- Watch documentaries and the latest series that everyone is talking about!
- Visit places of interest

**Read  
Watch  
Visit**

# What can I do to encourage my child to read?

#Tip 1

Keep a few books in the car for ease of grabbing as you're dashing off



#Tip 2

Encourage your child to read magazines, comics, newspaper articles. (Topics they are interested in) These can be print based or online

#Tip 3

Buy books as presents. Don't forget TV tie-ins and books about interests such as computer games or bands. Audiobooks are also good!

#Tip 4

Continue to read with your child. Research has shown that parent-child reading is beneficial for their cognitive development as it activates brain areas related to comprehension and mental imagery