



# St Benedict's Catholic School

*The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk*

## ENGLISH CURRICULUM GUIDE

### Year 8

#### Autumn Taught Content

- **Festivals:** a transactional writing unit that allows students to refresh and develop the skills of writing to argue.
- **Modern Novel:** exploration of a modern novel develops further students' skills of PETAL paragraphs, as well as exploring a character/theme across a whole text and the influence of contextual factors on a text.

#### Spring Taught Content

- **Media Advertising:** looking at the world of media and advertising gives students the opportunity to see how language is used in the modern/real world to influence and manipulate others. They then have an opportunity to use these skills themselves by creating and delivering a marketing campaign for their own product.
- **The Tempest or A Midsummer Night's Dream:** studying a Shakespeare play allows students to further develop their PETAL skills as well as preparing them for further study of a complete Shakespeare play.

#### Summer Taught Content

- **19<sup>th</sup> Century Fiction:** students look at extracts of 19<sup>th</sup> Century fiction linked by the theme of family to practise the skills of language analysis, and to prepare them for the study of a complete 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel in Year 9.
- **Poetry: A Journey Through Life:** exploration of poetry covering the seven stages of man. Students develop skills of how to analyse poetry, use poetic techniques and manipulate grammar for effect.

#### Assessment

Students have two formal assessments per year, which cover the content that has been taught up to that point. Students will also regularly practise in class the skills necessary to improve in English.

## Homework Expectations

Students are expected to read regularly as part of the Accelerated Reader program that is run in school. In addition, there are regular spelling and comprehension tests of Tier 2 Vocabulary and activities linked to the texts being studied in class. Students will also plan, prepare and practise a Speaking and Listening presentation to be delivered in-class during the course of the year.

## Reading List

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Modern novel</b> <i>Wonder – R.J. Palacio</i> <i>The Last Wild Trilogy- Piers Today</i> <i>Shine – Kate Maryon</i> <i>I, Coriander – Sally Gardner</i> <i>The Lie Tree – Frances Hardinge</i> <i>Montmorency – Eleanor Updale</i> <i>Holes – Louis Sachar</i>	<b>Fantasy and magic</b> <i>Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief (series)- Rick Riordan</i> <i>The Alchemist (The secrets of the immortal Nicholas Flamel series) – Michael Scott</i> <i>Pegasus series – Kate O’Hearn</i> <i>Artemis Fowl Series – Eoin Colfer</i> <i>Harry Potter Series – J.K.Rowling</i> <i>The Battle for Gullywith – Susan Hill</i> <i>The Story of the Amulet – Edith Nesbit</i>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Century Fiction</b> <i>Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens</i> <i>Silas Marner – George Eliot</i> <i>Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson</i>  <b>Biography/Poetry</b> <i>The Boy on the Shed – Paul Ferris</i> <i>Queenie – Candice Carly-Williams</i> <i>Girls Who Changed the World – Michelle Roehm</i>

## Extra and Super Curricular Opportunities

- BAM – Bennie’s Arts Magazine
- Debate Club
- Culture Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Key Stage 3 Reading Group
- Internal and external writing competitions