



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 – *The Bone Sparrow*:** 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 studying a complete Shakespeare play for GCSE.

Summer Taught Content

- **19th Century Fiction:** students look at extracts of 19th Century fiction and non-fiction to practise the skills of language analysis, and to prepare them for the study of a complete 19th 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. Furthermore, as part of the Accelerated Reader program that is run in school, those students who do read outside the classroom can prove their progress in reading skills by taking targeted quizzes based on their reading. Regular spelling and comprehension tests of Tier 2 Vocabulary, and activities linked to the texts being studied in class are also opportunities to display knowledge gleaned from home learning. 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
Modern novel Wonder – <i>R.J. Palacio</i> The Last Wild Trilogy- <i>Piers Today</i> Shine – <i>Kate Maryon</i> I, Coriander – <i>Sally Gardner</i> The Lie Tree – <i>Frances Hardinge</i> Montmorency – <i>Eleanor Updale</i> Holes – <i>Louis Sachar</i> When Life Gives You Mangoes <i>by Kereen Getten</i> Rooftoppers <i>by Katherine Rundell</i> A Secret of Birds & Bones <i>by Kiran Millwood Hargrave</i> Where the World Ends <i>by Geraldine McCaughrean</i>	Fantasy and magic Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief (series)- <i>Rick Riordan</i> The Alchemist (The secrets of the immortal Nicholas Flamel series) – <i>Michael Scott</i> Pegasus series – <i>Kate O'Hearn</i> Artemis Fowl Series – <i>Eoin Colfer</i> Harry Potter Series – <i>J.K.Rowling</i> The Battle for Gullywith – <i>Susan Hill</i> The Story of the Amulet – <i>Edith Nesbit</i>	19th Century Fiction Oliver Twist – <i>Charles Dickens</i> Silas Marner – <i>George Eliot</i> Treasure Island – <i>Robert Louis Stevenson</i> Biography/Poetry The Boy on the Shed – <i>Paul Ferris</i> Queenie – <i>Candice Carly-Williams</i> Girls Who Changed the World – <i>Michelle Roehm</i>

Extra and Super Curricular Opportunities

- Debate Club
- Reading Group
- Performing Shakespeare competition
- Internal and external writing competitions