



# St Benedict's Catholic School

*The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk*

## ENGLISH CURRICULUM GUIDE

### Year 9

#### Autumn Taught Content

- **Gothic Writing:** a writing scheme that allows students to refresh and develop their narrative writing skills. In addition, using the gothic genre exposes students to examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century literature before they tackle *A Christmas Carol*.
- ***A Christmas Carol*:** students study their first GCSE English Literature text, building on the analysis skills they have developed in Years 7 and 8. They develop understanding of the plot, characters, themes and context, as well as practising how to write about an extract and the novel as a whole.
- **Opinion Piece Writing:** students will develop understanding of how writers present a particular point of view in newspaper and magazine opinion pieces, and present their own opinions in speech and writing.

#### Spring Taught Content

- **Dystopia:** a reading scheme that allows students to develop the skills required for GCSE English Language Paper 1 on a variety of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century literature extracts and also extends their understanding of literary genres.
- **Shakespeare:** in-depth study of either *Romeo and Juliet* or *Much Ado About Nothing*. Students refine their use of PETAL paragraphs and analysis of a character/theme across a whole text and explore the influence of contextual factors on a text. (This unit continues into the Summer term.)

#### Summer Taught Content

- **Poetry from Different Cultures:** students complete a unit on poetry from other cultures, enabling students to expand their cultural literacy by exploring a range of texts. This unit is designed to emphasise the importance and impact of culture on writers and what they produce.

#### 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 well as prepare for regular spelling and comprehension tests of Tier 2 Vocabulary. Students will also plan, prepare and practise a Speaking and Listening presentation to be delivered in-class during the course of the year. In addition, students will be given regular activities to complete at home to support the study of a particular text or to practise a skill.

## Reading List

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Gothic</b> The Woman in Black – <i>Susan Hill</i> Kiss of Death – <i>Marcus Sedgwick</i> My sword hand is singing – <i>Marcus Sedgwick</i> The Graveyard book – <i>Neil Gaiman</i> Coraline – <i>Neil Gaiman</i> The Spiderwick Chronicles – <i>Holly Black and Tony Di Terlizzi</i> Mister Creecher – <i>Chris Priestley</i> The Wolves of Willoughby Chase – <i>Joan Aiken</i> Dracula – <i>Bram Stoker</i> Frankenstein – <i>Mary Shelley</i> Vathek – <i>William Beckford</i> Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde – <i>Robert Louis Stevenson</i> <b>19<sup>th</sup> Century novel</b> Northanger Abbey – <i>Jane Austen</i> Frankenstein – <i>Mary Shelley</i> Wuthering Heights – <i>Emily Bronte</i> Jane Eyre – <i>Charlotte Bronte</i> Time Machine – <i>H.G.Wells</i>	<b>Dystopian</b> Divergent series – <i>Veronica Roth (14+)</i> The Maze Runner series – <i>James Dashner</i> The Hunger Games series – <i>Suzanne Collins</i> I am number four – <i>Pittacus Lore</i> The Knife of Never Letting go (Chaos Walking series) – <i>Patrick Ness</i> Noughts and Crosses trilogy – <i>Malorie Blackman</i> Gone series – <i>Michael Grant</i> Magot Moon – <i>Sally Gardner</i> The Killables series – <i>Gemma Malley</i> 1984 – <i>George Orwell</i> The Handmaid's Tale – <i>Margaret Atwood</i>	<b>Shakespeare</b>  <a href="https://www.teachwire.net/news/7-of-the-best-shakespeare-resources-for-ks3-english">https://www.teachwire.net/news/7-of-the-best-shakespeare-resources-for-ks3-english</a>  <a href="https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/education/schools/key-stage-3-4/">https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/education/schools/key-stage-3-4/</a>  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zksycdm">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zksycdm</a>  <b>Poetry of different cultures</b> A Caribbean Dozen Poor-Caleb Femi

## Extra and Super Curricular Opportunities

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