



ENGLISH CURRICULUM GUIDE 2016

Year 8 Autumn Term

Students will continue the KS3 curriculum, developing the study undertaken in Year 7, beginning in Year 8 with a unit of work titled 'What's My Voice?' This unit develops their understanding of how we communicate effectively with one another whilst also covering the areas of formality and informality in talk. This will add to their understanding of how dialogue works both in spoken situations and in their future study of fictional texts.

Following on from this, the students will undertake the study of a pre-1914 text, specifically focusing on the fictional characters involved whilst researching the author in depth.

During these units, as with all units across KS3, students will also have specific lessons and tasks covering particular relevant areas of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Speaking and Listening activities take place throughout the year.

Cognitive Acceleration lessons are embedded within the curriculum across KS3.

All students participate in the Accelerated Reading scheme throughout the year.

Assessment:

The department operates a policy of continuous assessment with students' targets reviewed and updated regularly. Tasks may be produced under controlled conditions in class time with the levels awarded contributing to the year's overall Teacher Assessment.

English department policy is that **homework** should evolve from and support work in class. Tasks may be research, reading or writing.

Year 8 Spring Term

The second term will begin with the students reading a modern novel, again studying the author in depth and further developing their understanding and ability to discuss and write about narrative conventions and themes within the text.

A variety of text types will be covered with a focus on the students' ability to write creatively whilst also, through questioning and through written responses, developing their critical understanding of the text.

The term concludes with a unit of study relating to the media around us – specifically for Year 8, the study of the published word. This will develop the students' understanding of non-fiction text types including newspaper and magazine articles, web pages and blogs.

Year 8 Summer Term

The summer term for Year 8 will begin with a unit entitled 'Worlds of the past' which includes a study of poetry from our literary heritage – pre 1900 – and a study of older writings including Myths and Legends.

Students will analyse the structure of the writings and be given the opportunity to perform dramatic retellings of a favourite poem or myth, or undertake some choral reading.

Leading on from this the students will finish the year with the study of a modern drama text which will allow them to develop their understanding of how meanings are created through performance.