

## **Curriculum Intent: English Mastery in Year 7**

The English mastery curriculum at Key Stage 3 support the National Curriculum by seeking to give pupils a solid foundation and broad overview in some of the most important periods, texts and authors in British history. Additionally, the curriculum focuses on several selected domains of English such as characterisation, context, plot, form, grammar, and expressive or transactional writing. All pupils study both literary heritage and also master grammatical forms of writing each week in Key Stage 3. Through a knowledge-rich approach, the curriculum sets out a logical journey that students need to embark on to get better at a subject. It is designed to enable pupils to reach levels of automaticity in their writing for true mastery of the subject. Throughout the curriculum, pupils are taught substantive content which defines each epoch and each author's intent in writing.

The curriculum gives pupils a strong grounding in British literature. The content selected is ambitious in order to challenge the most able and provide a rich and empowering education for all. In Year 7, pupils will study *Oliver Twist*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a range of poetry and short tales. These texts will prepare pupils for the kinds of texts studied in their GCSE Literature Paper 1 Exam. While studying these units, pupils explore key concepts such literal and figurative language, essay and paragraphing structure, word-level analysis, and how authorial and societal context impacts literature.

There is also strong support in place for pupils to read for pleasure, which happens at whole school level in form times and is encouraged through our 'Reading Every Day' independent learning tasks.

As pupils progress through the curriculum, they grapple with greater complexity and develop both increasing conceptual understanding and disciplinary competency. Each unit has been designed to not only provide pupils with knowledge about each respective period, but also to ensure they practise necessary disciplinary skills within each unit that builds towards the greater skill of composing an academic essay. Pupils will develop the skill of selecting appropriate evidence and analysing language. The scaffolded approach will give all pupils the ability to write with confidence in an academic way for extended period of times.

Within the mastery curriculum, dedicated grammar lessons reinforce knowledge from KS2 and build on prior learning to help pupils master these and apply rules subconsciously. Explicit vocabulary teaching enables a wealth of rich language use by all pupils that will close the word – and attainment – gap for pupils.

The curriculum is rooted in the belief that 'over-learning' and regular practice is the path to real competency, and therefore the units of work include incremental episodes of repetition in order to assist long-term memory. Knowledge is regularly revisited and elaborated upon through mini assessments and quizzes every few weeks. All of these quizzes are embedded into the units of work and give teachers the opportunity to live mark and give instant feedback on pupil misconceptions.

Through this systematic approach, pupils should become competent and confident writers for all occasions. We aim for pupils to enjoy a range of literature and to develop the ability to make intelligent links whilst interpreting challenging concepts, ideas and themes that help them understand the complex world in which we live.