

Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact

English Curriculum

Subject Rationale and Intent

English and Media at the UTC is designed to make every student a confident, competent and curious communicator who is willing to take risks with their learning. The curriculum is deliberately built around our STEM identity: non-fiction texts at Key Stage 4 are chosen to make clear links to STEM careers and industries, and STEM-related topics are embedded across Key Stage 3 during the 2025/26 academic year.

Teaching is adapted so that every student, regardless of starting point, can access a challenging and equitable curriculum. Feedback is regular, high quality and consistent, including for students who use laptops or have access arrangements. Fast Read runs across Year 7 to accelerate reading ages, and Sparx Reader is used as a structured homework programme with a target of over 80% completion across all year groups. The department is working towards introducing A Level English from the 2026/27 academic year.

Learning is regularly extended beyond the classroom through visits and trips, and a Period 6 programme offers further intervention and enrichment clubs. The consistent use of the UTC's teaching frameworks (the '5 STEMs' and 'UTC 3') ensures learning expectations are high and clearly understood by staff and students alike.

As a result, we expect to see the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students, and between those with and without SEND, continue to close. Students should leave lessons more engaged and more excited by English and Media because of the real-world, STEM-linked opportunities on offer, reinforcing what makes learning at a UTC distinctive.

YEAR 7	Curriculum Content	Assessment Criteria	Parent Support
Term 1	Reading and writing skills built progressively through varied fiction and non-fiction. STEM-related non-fiction topics are embedded across Key Stage 3 in 2025/26. Fast Read runs across all of Year 7 to accelerate reading ages. Sparx Reader is used as an ongoing home-reading programme.	Teacher-assessed against national curriculum expectations and target grades, through half-termly assessed pieces and Sparx Reader completion data. There is no external examination at Key Stage 3.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning
Term 2	Reading and writing skills built progressively through varied fiction and non-fiction. STEM-related non-fiction topics are embedded across Key Stage 3 in 2025/26. Fast Read runs across all of Year 7 to accelerate reading ages. Sparx Reader is used as an ongoing home-reading programme.	Teacher-assessed against national curriculum expectations and target grades, through half-termly assessed pieces and Sparx Reader completion data. There is no external examination at Key Stage 3.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning

YEAR 7	Curriculum Content	Assessment Criteria	Parent Support
Term 3	Reading and writing skills built progressively through varied fiction and non-fiction. STEM-related non-fiction topics are embedded across Key Stage 3 in 2025/26. Fast Read runs across all of Year 7 to accelerate reading ages. Sparx Reader is used as an ongoing home-reading programme.	Teacher-assessed against national curriculum expectations and target grades, through half-termly assessed pieces and Sparx Reader completion data. There is no external examination at Key Stage 3.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning

YEAR 8	Curriculum Content	Assessment Criteria	Parent Support
Term 1	Reading and writing skills built progressively through varied fiction and non-fiction. STEM-related non-fiction topics are embedded across Key Stage 3 in 2025/26. Fast Read runs across all of Year 7 to accelerate reading ages. Sparx Reader is used as an ongoing home-reading programme (target: 80%+ completion).	Teacher-assessed against national curriculum expectations and target grades, through half-termly assessed pieces and Sparx Reader completion data. There is no external examination at Key Stage 3.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning
Term 2	Reading and writing skills built progressively through varied fiction and non-fiction. STEM-related non-fiction topics are embedded across Key Stage 3 in 2025/26. Fast Read runs across all of Year 7 to accelerate reading ages. Sparx Reader is used as an ongoing home-reading programme (target: 80%+ completion).	Teacher-assessed against national curriculum expectations and target grades, through half-termly assessed pieces and Sparx Reader completion data. There is no external examination at Key Stage 3.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning
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Term 1	Reading and writing skills built progressively through varied fiction and non-fiction. STEM-related non-fiction topics are embedded across Key Stage 3 in 2025/26. Fast Read runs across all of Year 7 to accelerate reading ages. Sparx Reader is used as an ongoing home-reading programme (target: 80%+ completion).	Teacher-assessed against national curriculum expectations and target grades, through half-termly assessed pieces and Sparx Reader completion data. There is no external examination at Key Stage 3.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning
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YEAR 10	Curriculum Content	Assessment Criteria	Parent Support
Term 1	GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature: a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, a 19th-century novel, a Shakespeare play, a post-1914 text, poetry, and unseen texts, alongside creative and transactional writing.	English Language: two exams of equal weighting (Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing; Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives), assessed against AO1-AO6 (reading, analysis, comparison, evaluation and writing), plus a separately-reported Spoken Language endorsement. English Literature: exams assessed against AO1 and AO2 (response to texts; analysis of language, form and structure), each weighted 25-35%, with AO3 (context) and AO4 (accuracy) completing the total.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning
Term 2	GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature: a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, a 19th-century novel, a Shakespeare play, a post-1914 text, poetry, and unseen texts, alongside creative and transactional writing.	English Language: two exams of equal weighting (Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing; Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives), assessed against AO1-AO6 (reading, analysis, comparison, evaluation and writing), plus a separately-reported Spoken Language endorsement. English Literature: exams assessed against AO1 and AO2 (response to texts; analysis of language, form and structure), each weighted 25-35%, with AO3 (context) and AO4 (accuracy) completing the total.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning
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YEAR 12	Curriculum Content	Assessment Criteria	Parent Support
Term 1	The department is working towards introducing A Level English from the 2027/28 academic year; there is currently no Key Stage 5 English pathway.	Not yet applicable - assessment structure to be confirmed once A Level English launches.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning
Term 2	The department is working towards introducing A Level English from the 2027/28 academic year; there is currently no Key Stage 5 English pathway.	Not yet applicable - assessment structure to be confirmed once A Level English launches.	BBC Bitesize: English Language & Literature GCSEPod Seneca Learning
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