

English Curriculum Map

Year 7

	Term	Curriculum Content
Year 7 Intent Our Year 7 English curriculum is designed to inspire a love of reading, nurture confident and fluent readers, and develop analytical and creative skills through a diverse range of texts and genres. Each term builds on core literacy skills while encouraging empathy, critical thinking, and effective communication.	Term 1 – Autumn 1 September – October	Faster Read: My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher <i>The Faster Read helps students develop reading fluency, confidence and comprehension. By reading a carefully chosen text aloud, students are exposed to rich vocabulary, accurate pronunciation and expressive reading. This regular practice supports literacy across all subjects and helps students become more confident, capable readers.</i>
	Term 2 – Autumn 2 November – December	Faster Read: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins <i>Reading a second novel builds fluency, comprehension and reading stamina, while also widening students' cultural awareness and enjoyment of reading.</i>
	Term 3 – Spring 1 January – February	Poetry: Introduction to poetry <i>Students are introduced to a diverse range of poems, poets and poetic forms. Studying different styles of poetry helps students develop their understanding of language, explore new perspectives and cultures, and appreciate the power of words.</i>
	Term 4 – Spring 2 February – April	Thematic study: Myths and Legends <i>This term, students explore a range of myths and legends from different cultures and traditions. These stories help students understand how narratives have shaped societies, while developing their comprehension, vocabulary and understanding of key literary themes such as heroism, conflict and morality.</i>
	Term 5 – Summer 1 April – May	Play: Frankenstein <i>Students study a play script adaptation of Frankenstein. This engaging text introduces students to a classic story while developing their understanding of dramatic conventions, characterisation and themes. Reading a script also helps students build confidence in interpreting dialogue, performance and stagecraft.</i>
	Term 6 – Summer 2 June – July	Introduction to Shakespeare <i>Students are introduced to Shakespeare through a range of carefully selected extracts from his plays. Exploring Shakespeare's language, characters and stories helps students build confidence with challenging texts and prepares them for future study.</i>

Year 8

	Term	Curriculum Content
Year 8 Intent Our Year 8 curriculum is designed to build on the skills developed in Year 7, introducing a range of texts including novels, poetry, short stories and plays. Students learn to refine skills of analysis and consider audience and purpose.	Term 1 – Autumn 1 September – October	Conflict Poetry <i>Students study a range of poems that explore the human experience of war, power and division. Through poetry, students develop their analytical skills, deepen their understanding of different perspectives, and explore how writers use language and structure to convey powerful messages.</i>
	Term 2 – Autumn 2 November – December	Twisted Tales (short stories) <i>This term, we explore a collection of twisted tales and short stories that challenge expectations and surprise readers. These engaging texts help students develop their understanding of narrative techniques, characterisation and suspense, while encouraging them to think critically about authors' choices and intentions.</i>
	Term 3 – Spring 1 January – February	Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet <i>Students study Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, exploring its themes of love, conflict, family and fate. Through this famous play, students build confidence in reading Shakespeare's language while developing their understanding of character, plot and dramatic techniques.</i>
	Term 4 – Spring 2 February – April	Novel Study: Salt to the Sea, by Rupa Sepetys <i>This historical novel tells the stories of young people caught up in the Second World War. Studying this novel develops empathy and cultural awareness while exploring themes of courage, survival and humanity.</i>
	Term 5 – Summer 1 April – May	Modern Play: Noughts and Crosses <i>This powerful play encourages students to consider issues of prejudice, discrimination and social justice, while developing their understanding of dramatic conventions, characterisation and performance.</i>
	Term 6 – Summer 2 June – July	Non-fiction <i>Students explore a range of non-fiction texts linked to current affairs and news stories. They learn how writers inform, persuade and influence audiences, while developing the skills needed to analyse real-world issues and produce their own clear, purposeful and engaging non-fiction writing.</i>

Year 9

	Term	Curriculum Content
Year 9 Intent <i>In Year 9, the curriculum is designed to support students' transition to GCSE by harnessing the skills developed throughout Key Stage 3.</i> <i>We seek to develop students' criticality, exploring nuance and interpretative analysis. We promote the link between reading and writing, asking students to read like a writer and write like a reader.</i>	Term 1 – Autumn 1 September – October	Novel Study: <i>The Woman in Black</i>, by Susan Hill <i>Through exploring suspense, atmosphere and the supernatural, students develop their understanding of key Gothic conventions that will support their later study of A Christmas Carol at GCSE.</i>
	Term 2 – Autumn 2 November – December	Romantic poetry <i>Students explore a selection of Romantic poems, developing their understanding of themes such as nature, emotion and individual experience. This unit builds students' confidence in analysing poetry while providing contextual knowledge that will support their future study of GCSE Literature texts, particularly A Christmas Carol.</i>
	Term 3 – Spring 1 January – February	Modern Play: <i>The Crucible</i>, by Arthur Miller <i>Students examine the significance of contextual factors and the ways in which context shapes the readers' response. Through exploring themes such as power, authority, reputation and the relationship between the individual and society, students gain insight into ideas that recur across GCSE Literature texts, particularly Macbeth.</i>
	Term 4 – Spring 2 February – April	Short Stories <i>In term 4, students study a range of high-quality short stories from different writers and literary traditions. These texts help students refine their analytical skills while exposing them to rich and varied literature. The unit also supports students' own writing by encouraging them to experiment with structure, language and narrative techniques.</i>
	Term 5 – Summer 1 April – May	GCSE Poetry Anthology: <i>Worlds and Lives</i> <i>Students begin studying poems from the GCSE Worlds and Lives anthology. These poems form part of their GCSE Literature course and are revisited throughout Years 9 and 10 using an interleaved approach.</i>
	Term 6 – Summer 2 June – July	Non-fiction and Oracy <i>Students explore a range of non-fiction texts while developing their spoken communication skills. They analyse how writers present viewpoints and arguments, while building confidence in discussion and debate. These skills prepare students for the GCSE Speaking and Listening endorsement.</i>

Year 10

	Term	Curriculum Content
Year 10 Intent <i>The curriculum prepares students for GCSE English Language and English Literature. Students study a nineteenth-century novel, Shakespeare and the GCSE poetry anthology, while developing their analytical and interpretative skills. Alongside this, they explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to strengthen their reading, writing and critical thinking. Students also complete the GCSE Spoken Language Endorsement, building confidence in formal speaking and discussion. Throughout the year, they develop examination skills and secure core knowledge in preparation for Trust-wide mock examinations in English Literature Paper 1 and English Language Paper 1.</i>	Term 1 – Autumn 1 September – October	Macbeth, William Shakespeare <i>Students study Shakespeare's Macbeth, one of the GCSE Literature set texts. Through exploring themes such as ambition, power, fate and guilt, students develop the analytical and interpretative skills needed for success at GCSE. Students also build confidence in understanding Shakespeare's language, dramatic methods and historical context.</i>
	Term 2 – Autumn 2 November – December	English language paper 1 <i>This term, students focus on the skills required for GCSE English Language Paper 1. Using a range of high-quality literary fiction texts, students develop their ability to analyse writers' craft, infer meaning and evaluate methods. They also refine their creative writing skills, learning how to craft engaging and effective narratives.</i>
	Term 3 – Spring 1 January – February	A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens <i>Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is a GCSE Literature text. Through exploring Victorian society and themes such as poverty, social responsibility and redemption, students strengthen their understanding of how context influences literature.</i>
	Term 4 – Spring 2 February – April	Mock Examinations <i>Students consolidate their learning from across the year and prepare for their Trust-wide mock examinations. This focused revision period helps students strengthen their knowledge of texts, refine exam techniques and build confidence in responding to GCSE-style questions.</i>
	Term 5 – Summer 1 April – May	Spoken language endorsement and Worlds and Lives poetry revision <i>This term, all students will complete the GCSE Spoken Language Endorsement, developing confidence in formal presentation and discussion skills. Alongside this, students revisit poems from the Worlds and Lives anthology, strengthening long-term recall and deepening their understanding of key themes, ideas and connections across the collection.</i>
	Term 6 – Summer 2 June – July	

Year 11

	Term	Curriculum Content
Year 10 Intent <i>In Year 11, the curriculum is designed to consolidate the knowledge, skills and exam techniques required for success in GCSE English Language and English Literature. Students complete their study of the GCSE set texts while revisiting previously studied literature to deepen understanding and improve retention. Alongside this, students refine the reading, analysis and writing skills needed for both English Language papers. Through focused revision and exam practice, students build confidence, resilience and independence, ensuring they are fully prepared for their GCSE examinations.</i>	Term 1 – Autumn 1 September – October	Modern Text: <i>An Inspector Calls</i>, English Language Paper 1 and Power and Conflict Poetry <i>With one teacher, students study J.B. Priestley's <i>An Inspector Calls</i>, exploring themes of social responsibility, inequality and morality while developing analytical and evaluative skills. With their second teacher, students refine the reading and writing skills required for English Language Paper 1 and study the Power and Conflict poetry anthology, building confidence in analysing language, structure and poetic methods across a range of texts.</i>
	Term 2 – Autumn 2 November – December	
	Term 3 – Spring 1 January – February	GCSE Revision and Exam Preparation <i>Students consolidate their knowledge of all GCSE Literature set texts through targeted revision and exam-focused practice. They develop confidence in comparing and analysing unseen poetry while refining the skills needed for both English Language Papers 1 and 2. Through regular retrieval, modelling and examination practice, students strengthen their understanding, improve exam technique and prepare thoroughly for their final GCSE examinations.</i>
	Term 4 – Spring 2 February – April	
	Term 5 – Summer 1 April – May	GCSE Examinations
	Term 6 – Summer 2 June – July	

Useful Websites/Resources	Enrichment Activities
Home – BBC Bitesize Free online lessons, videos and quizzes for pupils Oak National Academy Teachers and schools events, workshops and resources – British Library Sparx Reader – A parent's guide to Sparx Reader Seneca Learning and Revision	• Poetry By Heart competition • Young Writers' competitions • Rotary Writing competition • Theatre trips • Author visits • World Book Day activities • Reading challenges • Extra-curricular clubs • Homework club