

KS3 English

Curriculum Intent

Our KS3 English curriculum is designed to develop confident, critical and articulate communicators who can read, write, speak and listen effectively in a wide range of contexts. Through the study of diverse and challenging texts, students develop the literacy skills, cultural knowledge and analytical thinking needed for academic success, future employment and active participation in society. We aim to foster a love for reading both fiction and non-fiction and develop students' reading skills in preparation for GCSE.

The curriculum aims to:

- Foster a love of reading through exposure to a broad range of literary and non-fiction texts from different periods, cultures and perspectives across the heritage of English Literature.
- Develop students' ability to analyse how writers use language and structure to shape meaning and influence readers.
- Build strong writing skills, enabling students to write accurately, creatively and persuasively for a variety of audiences and purposes.
- Enhance spoken language skills, encouraging students to communicate ideas clearly, listen respectfully and participate confidently in discussion and debate.
- Strengthen students' vocabulary, grammar and technical accuracy to support effective communication across the curriculum and beyond school.
- Promote critical thinking by encouraging students to evaluate viewpoints, question assumptions and engage thoughtfully with contemporary issues.
- Prepare students for success in their examinations while equipping them with transferable skills essential for further education, employment and lifelong learning.

By the end of KS3, students will be able to communicate with clarity, analyse texts independently, and apply their literacy skills confidently in both academic and real-world settings, preparing them for their KS4 learning.

Assessment, Marking and Feedback

At the end of each term, there will be an end of term writing and reading assessment based on the learning taught that term.

Writing assessments will either assess fiction writing such as description or narrative, or non-fiction writing including writing newspaper articles, letters and speeches.

Reading assessments will consist of an extract from the text studied and students will answer an exam-style question using analytical paragraphs.

At the end of term 5, year 7 will have their End of Year exams consisting of one English Writing assessment and one English Reading assessment.

At the beginning of term 6, year 8 and 9 will have their End of Year exams consisting of one English Writing assessment and one English Reading assessment.

As per school policy, teachers have a two-week turnaround for marking and endeavour to get back students' work to them in a timely manner for feedback. Teachers use this marking to inform their feedback and subsequent planning to address misconceptions and help students to make further progress. Students then receive feedback on their assessments using their Yellow Assessment Papers, and progress tasks for them to complete.

Homework

As per the Praise and Reward school policy regarding homework, we offer a termly homework menu with a range of activities students can engage with that cover writing and reading skills.

We also offer Bedrock Learning as a homework option that students can complete at home alongside their Bedrock lessons. Students can complete additional vocabulary and grammar learning lessons to earn Bedrock points and develop their literacy skills.

Links to National Curriculum / Syllabus Specifications

Key Stage 3 National Curriculum

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study>

Exam Support & Revision Resources

Reading Practice

- Focus on:
 - Language analysis (words, techniques, effects)
 - Structure (beginning, shifts, endings)
 - Inference and interpretation
 - Vocabulary
- Practice ideas:
 - Read newspaper articles (BBC News, Guardian)
 - Highlight language devices and explain effects
 - Summarise viewpoints in 3–5 bullet points
 - Use Bedrock Learning to improve reading skills

Writing Practice

- Focus on:
 - Descriptive writing and narrative writing techniques
 - Reading for pleasure as inspiration on genre, style and tone
 - Persuasive writing techniques in non-fiction
 - Vocabulary
- Practice ideas:
 - Read newspaper articles (BBC News, Guardian) as inspiration
 - Highlight language devices and explain effects
 - Summarise viewpoints in 3–5 bullet points
 - Use Bedrock Learning to improve vocabulary and grammar skills
 - Practice writing fiction and non-fiction writing using the techniques studied

Exam Skills Checklist

- Reading
 - Highlight key words in the question
 - Use short, embedded quotations
 - Explain effects of language
 - Consider historical context
- Writing
 - Plan before writing
 - Use ambitious vocabulary
 - Vary sentence structures
 - Use paragraphs clearly
 - Check spelling, punctuation, grammar

You can find support and additional revision resources below:

- BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3kw2hv>
- Bedrock Learning: <https://app.bedrocklearning.org/>

Extracurricular and Enrichment Opportunities

Bedrock Learning

Bedrock Learning is used as a targeted academic intervention at Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9) to improve students' literacy, vocabulary knowledge, reading comprehension, and access to the wider curriculum. By systematically teaching academic vocabulary and providing adaptive practice, it helps close gaps in language proficiency that can hinder progress across subjects. We regularly assess students' progress through Bedrock Learning and students have bi-weekly Bedrock lessons as well as access for their homework to supplement their learning in lessons. Using the data from Bedrock Learning, we can target students who are substantially below their peers in their reading ages for specific intervention in close collaboration with the SEN department.

Book Club

We run a KS3 Book Club after school in the library to promote reading for pleasure and build students' reading skills. Students read a set text together, read their own books independently and use their reading as inspiration for their own creative writing.

Library Clubs, Events and Competitions

Our library holds regular themed clubs, events and competitions that change termly depending on topics: Past clubs and events have included; The BookNic (in which students participated in a Book Picnic), Stranger Things Choose Your Own Adventure, Heartstopper Group read, poet and author visits or webinars
Past competitions have included; Read 6 in 2026, Stranger Sagas Writing Competition

Educational trips and visits

Students have the opportunity to further enrich their understanding of English through educational trips such as theatre visits including Animal Farm and Unexpected Twist: An Oliver Twist re-telling, visits and workshops to The Globe Theatre, and trips to the Harry Potter Studios Tour.

These experiences help students to deepen their understanding of English as a subject and consider how texts studied can be adapted for the stage or for film.

These trips broaden students' cultural capital, strengthen engagement with literature texts studied, and supports the development of a love for the subject.

Through our library interventions, we also run rewards trips to Waterstones where students who have been part of our reading interventions can purchase a book of their choice and enjoy a sweet treat in the cafe, giving students a positive reward for improving their reading skills as well as cultural capital of shopping in a bookshop.

Assemblies

As part of our assembly calendar, we run assemblies for all year groups on Shakespeare's Birthday week, exploring the influence of Shakespeare on our society and World Book Day, in which we promote reading for pleasure as well as run KS3 events such as Book Tea Parties or sponsored readathons. Past themes have included Tea with Tolkien, Tea with a Twist and The Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

Competitions

We regularly engage with Young Writer's competitions in which students write their own short stories or poems for submission to Young Writers. Many of our students' work has been published allowing them to see the process of

publication and engage with writing for pleasure. Past themes have included Stranger Sagas, I Have A Dream poetry competition and Poetry Escape.

Interested to know more?

To read:

- We provide a KS3 Fiction Reading List to supplement students' learning in school which includes – Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson, Holes by Louis Sachar and The High Rise Mystery by Sharna Jackson
- Non-Fiction texts include; Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls, I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai and The Diary of A Young Girl by Anne Frank.
- Newspaper suitable for KS3 students – The Week Junior

To watch:

- National Theatre Online - <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/event/type/online/>
- Classic Literature Interpretations such as A Christmas Carol, The Secret Garden and The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas
- Modern fiction and storytelling adaptations such as Coraline, The Hunger Games and Wonder
- Non-Fiction such as Blue Planet, Horrible Histories and BBC Bitesize Watch:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3kw2hv>
- Poetry and the spoken word including The Poetry Foundation Video Library (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/video>) and Button Poetry (<https://buttonpoetry.com/category/videos/>)
- Crash Course Literature <https://thecrashcourse.com/topic/literature/>

To listen:

- Poetry and the spoken word including The Poetry Foundation Video Library (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/video>) and Button Poetry (<https://buttonpoetry.com/category/videos/>)
- Book Club for Kids Podcast
- Word of Mouth BBC Radio 4 podcast with Michael Rosen

To visit:

- Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London
- The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury
- The British Library in London (exhibitions in the past have included Fairytales: A family adventure through magical worlds and enchanted stories)
- The Charles Dickens Museum in London
- The Canterbury Tales Experience in Canterbury