

Year 8 - English

Curriculum intent	The Year 8 English curriculum invites students on a literary and linguistic journey that fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity. Beginning with a contemporary novel, students deepen their analytical skills by tracing narrative arcs, exploring character development, and interrogating thematic concerns. This forms a foundation for evaluating how writers shape meaning and influence readers. As students' progress, they explore key literary movements from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, gaining insight into how context—historical and social—shapes tone, perspective, and purpose. Through analysis and practice, students will refine their own transactional and discursive writing, learning how to craft compelling arguments and informative reports with clarity and impact in journalistic writing. Building on this, students delve into Shakespeare's <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>, discovering how comedic conventions and Elizabethan context inform character interactions and language choices. Finally, students' journey into the world of travel writing, synthesising descriptive techniques, sensory detail, and reflective tone to explore place and identity. By drawing on their study of previous texts, they apply rich vocabulary, controlled syntax, and rhetorical devices to produce immersive and engaging written piece. Throughout the year, grammar mastery, literary appreciation, and confident expression work together to build resilient, articulate thinkers who are empowered to explore the literary world through writing and speech.				
Term	Autumn	Spring		Summer	
Scheme	<i>Boy, Everywhere</i> by A.M. Dassu	Literary Movements Through Time	Journalistic Writing	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> by William Shakespeare	Travel Writing
Knowledge	• Narrative Plot, Characterisation and themes in the novel. • Historical context and social issues relating to war, refugees and asylum seeking. • Authorial Intentions	• Genres and their typical conventions in the 18th, 19th and 20th Century • Authorial Intent • Language and Structure devices	• Format and structure of different kinds of journalistic writing. • Language devices and rhetorical devices. • Sentence structures.	• Plot, characterisation and themes in the play • Historical and social issues • Authorial intent	• Format and structure of different kinds of travel writing. • Language devices and rhetorical devices. • Sentence structures. Typical features or conventions.
Skills	• Reading for meaning and inference • Exploring themes • Analysing writers' intention	• Reading for meaning and inference • Analysis	• Writing to persuade or argue. • Writing to inform. • Crafting language for effect.	• Reading for meaning and inference	• Reading for meaning and inference. • Analysis. • Writing for varying purposes.

	• Writing imaginatively and emulating language and structural devices.			• Analysis of language and structure • Exploring themes	
Assessments	• 2 x MAT: Exploring the significance of a theme in the novel • 2 x MAT: Imaginative and creative writing • 2 x Mastery Recall Tests	• 2 x MAT analysing language and structure • 1 x Mastery Recall Test	• 1 x MAT analysing language choices. • 1 x MAT crafting an article. • 1 x Mastery Recall Test.	• 1 x MAT analysing language and structure • 1 x MAT exploring a theme in the play • 1 x Mastery Recall Test	• 1 x MAT analysing language choices. • 1 x MAT crafting an article. 1 x Mastery Recall Test.
Curiosity	• Read another novel based on refugees or asylum seeking. • Read another text written by A.M.Dassu	• Read another example of a literary movement by another author • Read a poem based in one of the centuries and analyse	• Read articles online and identify the authorial intent. • Submit an article or letter to a local newspaper. • Write an article about an event you have been to this half term.	• Read / research about the time the play was set • Read / research about the author William Shakespeare • Read another play by William Shakespeare	• Research a country in the world and write a guide for that place. • Choose your favourite place to visit and write a review. - Analyse a piece of travel writing online.