

Curriculum Overview: English

Year Group	Content overview Cycle 1	Content overview Cycle 2	Content overview Cycle 3
5	<p><u>The Curse of the Maya</u> Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Informal letter ➤ Diary entry from character’s perspective ➤ Narrative – New Chapter ‘Curse of the Maya’ <p>Writing Skills</p> <p><u>Journey to the River Sea (Guided Reading)</u> VIPERS skills (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve, summarise)</p>	<p><u>Kensuke’s Kingdom</u> Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Balanced argument ➤ Narrative – Kensuke’s Life Story <p>Writing Skills</p> <p><u>Once (Guided Reading)</u> VIPERS skills (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve, summarise)</p>	<p><u>The Piano (animation)</u> <u>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</u> Treason Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Narrative – The Piano ➤ Persuasive letter <p>Writing Skills</p> <p><u>Letters from the Lighthouse (Guided Reading)</u> VIPERS skills (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve, summarise)</p>
6	<p><u>Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Speckled Band</u> Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recount of Summer Holidays ➤ Newspaper Report <p>Writing Skills Inference and deduction, evidence to support a hypothesis, source key facts from a text, sentence openers, complex sentences, assess a writer’s choice of ending</p> <p><u>Street Child</u> Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Narrative – Jim’s Escape <p>Writing Skills Difference between formal and slang, speech, diary entry, emotive language, describe a setting, making predictions,</p> <p><u>Cogheart (Guided Reading)</u> VIPERS skills (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve, summarise)</p>	<p><u>The Highwayman</u> Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Narrative – Retell a Given Story <p>Writing Skills</p> <p><u>Beowulf</u> Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Narrative – Alternate Perspective (Sea-Hag) ➤ Newspaper GDS <p>Writing Skills</p> <p><u>Reciprocal Reading & Comprehension Skills (Guided Reading)</u> Range of short texts used VIPERS skills (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve, summarise)</p>	<p><u>Holes</u> Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fact File – Yellow-Spotted Lizard ➤ Balanced Argument – Should Stanley go After Zero? ➤ Adventure Story – Kate Barlow <p>Writing Skills Analyse an opening, describing a character, describing a setting, dairy entry, persuasive devices, using quotes, imperative form, wanted poster, obituary, creating sympathy for a character,</p> <p><u>Writing for Moderation</u> Best Writes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Passive Voice – Mr Hasbean ➤ Narrative – Astrid ➤ Setting Description – Beach Scene ➤ Dialogue – Invisible Man ➤ Balanced Argument – Mount Snowdon ➤ Modal Verbs – My Future ➤ Free Write <p>Writing Skills Teacher to look at gaps in Best Writes and use relevant pieces to help support the gaps</p> <p><u>Windrush Child (Guided Reading)</u> VIPERS skills (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve, summarise)</p>
7	<p><u>Myths and Legends (7 weeks)</u> Writing Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Non-fiction writing <p>Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse an author’s craft, start to identify themes across a text, select quotations, identify context at the time, explore characterisation, pathetic fallacy</p> <p><u>Villains of Dickens (7 weeks)</u></p>	<p><u>Midsummer Night’s Dream (6 weeks & 5 weeks)</u> Writing Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Narrative ➤ Descriptive writing <p>Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse playwright’s craft – language and structure, explore how genre is built within a play, select relevant quotations and begin to make notes and annotations on them,</p>	<p><u>Boy in the Stripped Pyjamas (6 weeks + 7 weeks)</u> Writing Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Letter writing ➤ Diary writing ➤ Script writing <p>Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse author’s craft – language and structure, pathetic fallacy, foreboding, analyse emotional impact of certain words, bias in language, select relevant quotations and create annotations on them.</p>

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8	<p>Refugee Boy Writing Focus Newspaper article – Refugee Crisis Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse author’s craft – flashbacks, foreshadowing, pathetic fallacy, how does language shape and manipulate people’s emotions, compare across different types of text, critically compare and contrast, bias in language,</p>	<p>Detectives in Literature Writing Focus > Narrative Writing – focus on structure Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse author’s craft – language and structure, compare and contrast across a range of texts, character tracking, inference, selection of relevant quotations and analyse using detailed annotations,</p>	<p>The Women in Black and Gothic Short Stories Writing Focus Analytical Writing – the presentation of a character. Reading Skills To be able to understand the gothic genre and the conventions of this. To be able to apply their understanding of Freytag’s pyramid and archetypal characters to the novel. To be able to explain the key events and characters in the novel as well as the different forms which the novel uses eg. epistolary.</p>			
9	<p>Blood Brothers Writing Focus Perspective writing in the style of a character Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse playwright’s craft – language and structure, explore how genre is built within a play, inference, select relevant quotations and make detailed notes and annotations, how does language shape and manipulate people’s emotions, to consider how texts can straddle genres. Dystopia and Creative Writing</p>	<p>Romeo and Juliet Reading Skills Introduction to the genre of tragedy. Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse playwright’s craft – language and structure, explore how genre is built within a play, inference, select relevant quotations and make detailed notes and annotations, how does language shape and manipulate people’s emotions, to consider how tragedy is built within text(s). Writing Application of knowledge to support the analysis of the texts in terms of writer’s craft, the identification and effect of language techniques and an understanding of genre. Developing skills in terms of structuring an effective essay.</p>	<p>Animal Farm Writing Focus Persuasive writing – speech. Reading Skills Reading for understanding. To be able to explain how historical context of the Cold War influences the writer’s choices and the narrative of the novel. To be able to understand different viewpoints and the narrative arc of the novel. To be able to identify archetypal characters in the novel.</p> <p>Power and Conflict Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War Photographer • Remains • Exposure • Bayonet Charge • Poppies • Charge of the Light Brigade <p>Writing Focus A structured essay response to a GCSE style question which will involve analysing a poem. Reading Skills Reading poems which have a connected theme of war. Understanding how poems are constructed and the different interpretations of the themes and meanings.</p>			
10	<p>An Inspector Calls Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse author’s craft – structure, language devices, ambiguous language, how does language shape and manipulate people’s emotions, character tracking, theme and motif tracking. Writing Focus : Developing critical analysis skills to support structuring essays.</p>	<p>Power and Conflict poetry Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse poet’s craft – structure, language devices, ambiguous language, how does language shape and manipulate people’s emotions, compare across other poems studied, critically compare and contrast, identifying links between texts. Writing Focus : Developing critical analysis skills to support structuring essays.</p>	<p>Language Paper 1 sections A&B Reading Skills Read for comprehension, use inference skills to deepen understanding. Be able to identify the writer’s choice in terms of language and structure and the effect of this. Writing Focus > Descriptive / narrative tasks based on visual prompts. > Use of language techniques for effect.</p>	<p>Language Paper 2 Question 5 & Unseen Poetry Reading Skills Language Paper 2 Q5 Reading a variety of non-fiction texts for meaning and understanding of genre and structure. Be able to identify language techniques and the effect of these. Unseen Poetry Reading a variety of poems and applying understanding and interpretation to them, using the skills from</p>	<p>Macbeth Reading Skills Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse playwright’s craft – language and structure, explore how genre is built within a play, inference, select relevant quotations and make detailed notes and annotations, how does language shape and manipulate people’s emotions, to consider how tragedy is built within text(s). Writing Focus :</p>	<p>Mock Exam Preparation Mocks : June 2026 – date TBC. Mock exam : English Literature Paper 2. English Language Paper 1. Speaking and Listening component of English Language GCSE to be completed in the mock exam window, using the speeches from Spring Term 2. Summer Term 2 English Language Paper 2 Section A. Reading Skills</p>

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	<p>Specific focus on the form of a play and the writer's craft.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Application of Freytag's pyramid to support narrative structure. ➤ Application of knowledge of archetypal characters to narratives. 	<p>studying the poetry anthology.</p> <p>Writing Focus – Language Paper 2</p> <p>Apply knowledge of persuasive skills to create a speech. Application of language techniques for effect.</p> <p>Unseen poetry</p> <p>To apply skills from the poetry anthology to an unseen poem.</p> <p>Oracy Skills</p> <p>To be able to apply intonation and expression to performing their speech. To be able to use the appropriate tone and formal register in order to communicate their ideas.</p>	<p>Application of knowledge to support the analysis of the texts in terms of writer's craft, the identification and effect of language techniques and an understanding of genre. Developing skills in terms of structuring an effective essay.</p>	<p>Read for comprehension and use inference skills to deepen understanding. Be able to identify different genres of texts and the conventions which they follow. Be able to identify the writer's choice in terms of language and structure and the effect of this.</p> <p>Writing Focus</p> <p>To be able to effectively compare two texts and identify differences and similarities between them. To be able to structure a response which demonstrates an understanding of the writer's choices of language and the effect of this.</p>
11	<p><u>A Christmas Carol / Language Paper 2</u></p> <p>Reading Skills</p> <p>Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse author's craft – structure, language devices, ambiguous language, how does language shape and manipulate people's emotions, character tracking, theme and motif tracking.</p> <p>Writing Focus</p> <p>Application of knowledge to support the analysis of the texts in terms of writer's craft, the identification and effect of language techniques and an understanding of genre. Developing skills in terms of structuring an effective essay.</p>	<p><u>05.11.2026 – 13.11.2026</u> Mock Exam 2 : Lit P1 and Lang P2</p> <p>Speaking and Listening component of English Language GCSE will take place in the mock exam window.</p> <p><u>A Christmas Carol / Language Paper 2 Section A</u> Read for meaning, understand different viewpoints, analyse author's craft – language and structure. Identify genre, audience and purpose of texts.</p>	<p><u>Revision Paper 2 Literature & Paper 1 Language</u></p> <p>This will include structured revision lessons which will embed exam techniques.</p> <p>Revision of 'An Inspector Calls' – 5 lessons.</p> <p>Revision of 'Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology' – 5 lessons.</p> <p>Revision of Unseen Poetry – 5 lessons.</p> <p>Revision of English Language Paper 1 – 5 lessons.</p> <p>Walking Talking Mocks led by the teacher for English Literature Paper 2 and English Language Paper 1. <u>Mock exam 3 : February date TBC.</u></p>	<p><u>Revision Paper 1 Literature & Paper 2 Language</u></p> <p>This will include structured revision lessons which will embed exam techniques.</p> <p>Revision of 'Macbeth' – 5 lessons.</p> <p>Revision of 'A Christmas Carol' – 5 lessons.</p> <p>Revision of 'Language Paper 2' – 5 lessons.</p> <p>Walking Talking Mocks led by the teacher for English Literature Paper 1 and English Language Paper 2.</p> <p>Feedback from Mock Exam and consolidation of knowledge.</p>	<p><u>Revision : Exam Technique</u></p> <p>This will include targeted lessons across all papers to embed exam technique in the final weeks before their GCSEs.</p>	

