

SUBJECT: English

YEAR: 7

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Natalie Thurgood

PROGRESS LEADER (KS3): Allison Philp

GROUPING POLICY: Students are set according to KS2 level in groups of similar ability.

COURSE CONTENT:

What will my child learn?

During Year 7, students will develop their skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening. Schemes of work are each developed around a central theme, giving students the opportunity to study a broad range of text types.

Schemes of Work in Year 7:

Science Fiction and Fantasy including in depth study of an author of this type of fiction.
Animals incorporating poetry and persuasive texts.
Action and adventure including examples from prose texts and non-fiction centring on this theme.
Students will also study a drama text from both a reading and performance perspective.

What will homework look like?

Homework will take the form of Extended Learning Opportunities linked to the unit being studied in class. These will be set each term. Students are expected to complete two tasks: one of the tasks is a compulsory task usually centred on reading, the other can be chosen from a wider list of activities.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

- Wider reading is encouraged through Extended Learning Opportunities and through a Reading Club based in the Learning Resource Centre.
- Competitions are organised both within the department and on a wider basis.

ASSESSMENT

How will my child's work be assessed?

Teachers will colour code feedback for areas of strength and for errors and development points. When giving assessment feedback, teachers will use WWW (what went well) and EBI (even better if) so that students have a clear indication of how to improve their work.

English work is further assessed using a national strategy called Assessing Pupil Progress which breaks English down into core skills for the areas of reading, writing and speaking and listening. In order that we can see that skills are embedded and transferable, teachers make judgements based on a body of work rather than on single pieces in order that a level judgement is secure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

Speaking and Listening:

- Encourage them to talk clearly and at length about their ideas
- Listen to and talk about things that are not immediately familiar, such as items on the news
- Play memory games, taking turns to answer questions about a story or film they've listened to
- Encourage them to take on specific roles in their social life, for example, in a sports team or after school club

Reading:

- Help them think about the writer behind the text, for example:
 - Why did they choose the language they did?
 - Why did they organise the text in that way?
 - What effect did they hope to have on the reader?
- When looking for information in print or on screen, encourage them to scan ahead and think about how helpful the text is, whether it is a biased or reliable source
- When they talk about their reading encourage them to refer to evidence in the text to support their views
- Get them to share their opinions in different ways, for example, blogging, social networking site contributions

Writing:

- Ask them to tell you what are the best features of their writing
- Discuss possible improvements, for example, how to include more detail, vary the pace of a story or rephrase a sentence
- Help them to use their reading to support them as writers, for example, ask them to look at how a writer they like uses varied sentences or organises paragraphs