

SUBJECT: English

YEAR: 8

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Natalie Thurgood

PROGRESS LEADER (KS3): Allison Philp

GROUPING POLICY: Students are set according to level in groups of similar ability based on their performance during Year 7.

COURSE CONTENT

During Year 8, students will build on 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.

What will my child learn?

The content of courses in Year 8 will include study of Shakespeare and the history of the English language including study of a whole Shakespeare play. Students will also study poetry and prose writing from different cultures. In addition to these topics, students will learn about the spy and detective genre of writing including in depth study of an author of this type of fiction as well as learning how comedy is constructed in a range of different texts.

What will homework look like?

Each unit will have a compulsory corresponding Extended Learning Project which will encourage wider reading and independent study. The time given to complete these projects accounts for one of the two homework activities students are expected to undertake each week for English. The other homework task will be set each week by their teacher and will consolidate skills they have worked on in class.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

- Wider reading is encouraged through homework and through a Reading Club based in the Learning Resource Centre. Students are also encouraged to develop wider reading through shadowing the Carnegie reading list.
- Competitions are organised both within the department and on a wider basis.
- Year 8 are involved in a 'Poetry Slam' which is linked to Cheltenham Poetry Festival.

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:

- Find opportunities for them to talk at length about increasingly complicated ideas and situations, for example, explain an experiment they have done in science or a topical subject such as cyber bullying
- Help them take more account of the listener's reaction when speaking, for example, when telling a story to a younger sibling making it exciting
- Encourage them to listen and express their opinions about local and national issues in the news

Reading:

- Give them regular opportunities to make their own choices in what they read at home, for example, visits to the library, magazines that cover out of school interests
- Encourage them to develop their response to a text in more detail, for example, ask them to tell you how their feelings towards a character changed at different points in a story
- Talk with them about the writer's choice of language, for example, ask them to choose a section they think is good and explain why they think it works well

Writing:

- Encourage their personal writing, for example, a journey or diary, social networking, a blog
- Talk through their ideas with them before they start to write, for example, prompt them to think about how they intend to tackle a subject
- Help them to reflect on their writing, particularly the effect they hoped to have on the reader, for example, is the reader sufficiently prepared for the ending?
- Encourage them to read through their work, shaping their sentences for clarity and impact and checking their accuracy.