

English & Literature

Head of English - Mrs K Dunleavy

Assistant Head of English – Mrs C McCarthy

Topics of Study This Year:

During Years 10 and 11, pupils will be working towards GCSE qualifications in English Language and English Literature. Year 9 allows us to prepare pupils for the KS4 Curriculum and the requirements of GCSE level of study. In Term 1, pupils will study the play 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell, as a way to introduce them to the play form in readiness for GCSE Literature. Pupils will also be given the opportunity to read a selection of non fiction articles linked to the play taken from across the 19th, 20th and 21st century. In Term 2, Pupils will study John Steinbeck's classic novel 'Of Mice and Men' to allow them to access texts from a different culture and acquire contextual understanding and how context shapes a text. In Term 3, Pupils will access one of the texts that they will revisit during their time in Year 11— William Shakespeare's Macbeth. Pupils will read the play and study the themes, characters, plot, language and stagecraft in preparation for exam style questions to assess their knowledge and understanding. Along side each unit of work in each term pupils will also be given the opportunity to develop their writing skills as they write to form a viewpoint, describe and narrate.

Term 1

'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell. The pupils will access a drama text and learn how to analyse how a playwright creates meaning and uses language and structure to present ideas. Intertwined into the unit will be additional reading materials from across the 19, 20 and 21st centuries linked to the theme of education. Pupils will also be given the opportunity to write from a perspective about their views on education, which links to GCSE English Language.

Term 2

'Of Mice and Men' - Pupils will strengthen a range of reading skills. Via reading this novel they will carry out character studies, explore themes and context and analyse language and structure.

Using the novel as a starting point, pupils will write to describe a place/setting. This links to GCSE English Language.

Term 3

'Macbeth' - after studying the more light hearted 'Our Day Out' in the first term, pupils will be ready to take on the grittier and more challenging play 'Macbeth'. Pupils will practice writing about themes, plot, characterization, language and structure.

This unit of study links specifically to GCSE English Literature.

Assessments:

Six key assessments in Year 9. Pupils will receive a level for each assessment. Results will be shared with them at the end of the term or half-term. At the end of the year pupils will sit an end of year exam and the result of this will generate a Key Stage 3 level.

Homework:

Homework is set every week and we encourage pupils to read for pleasure in their own time.

Other Useful Information:

BBC GCSE Bitesize for Macbeth materials <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/>