

English @ WBS Year 8 Roadmap

Subject Aim:

The main aim of the English curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping you with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop your love of literature through reading for enjoyment across a wide range of styles and genres.

Introduction to Media Studies

This unit of work introduces students to the world of television, film and advertisements. They will explore symbolism and representation in a film and analyse technical features of camera and sound work too. This will then equip them to begin 'production' on a film of their own. Students will be encouraged to consider:

- How does a film create deeper meanings beyond a surface level?
- What processes are involved behind the scenes in the production of media?
- How is studying visual media similar or different to studying a written text?

A Midsummer Night's Dream OR The Tempest (Shakespeare)

This unit is for students to familiarise themselves with Shakespeare's work through watching, reading and sometimes performing key extracts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They will take a dialogic approach to investigate some of the questions and points of interest that arise from the text and will learn how to look at language, structure and form to explore and inform their ideas further. Students will be encouraged to consider:

- What makes Shakespeare a unique writer?
- How do I navigate the potentially difficult language?
- What can studying this text tell me about big concepts like gender, relationships and nature?

Issues in Non Fiction

This unit of work will give students insight into how non-fiction writing has been used to express a range of views and opinions around controversial and contentious issues. Students will look at speeches, articles and autobiographical excerpts as both readers and writers and will especially familiarise themselves with the broadsheet newspaper form. Students will be encouraged to consider:

- How can I effectively decipher facts and opinions?
- Why might certain issues be talked about more than others?
- How can I make my opinion relevant to my reader?

Class Novel – Of Mice and Men OR Lord of the Flies

From studying a novel in Y7 and building their understanding of plots, characters and themes, students should take the opportunity in this unit to really consider a writer's craft. By establishing an 'agenda' of key questions students want to tackle in this novel study, the class will be guided through the text looking at authorial methods and their impact on a reader. Students will be encouraged to consider:

- What can I learn about the worlds these characters live in, such as the impact of war or the search of the American Dream, from reading these texts?
- What do I notice about the text I'm reading and how can I write about it in a meaningful way?

Romantic Poetry

In this unit of work, students are able to look at poetry in the context of a literary movement. They will explore a range of poems and analyse elements of language, structure and form. A dialogic approach will be taken to answering questions that arise from the poetry and discussion on the big ideas in these poems will be fundamental. Students will be encouraged to consider:

- Why did this poetic movement begin?
- How is this type of poetry still relevant?
- What patterns and ideas are explored in these poems?

The Island Project (Timetable Promotion)

This unit of work seeks to develop students' descriptive writing skills with alongside a clear focus on technical accuracy and using a range of sentence types for effect. Students will develop various pieces of writing about being stranded on a desert island and will be encouraged to consider:

- How can I make sure my vocabulary choices are ambitious and appropriate for my writing?
- What range of methods might I use to create a convincing piece of description?
- Why might I structure my work in a particular way?

Assessment

The key Y8 assessments for each unit of work will take place in **the last week of each half term**.

In this year, students will complete:

- 2 Writing Assessments
- 3 Reading Assessments
- 1 Speaking and Listening Assessment with a Media focus

Homework and Revision

Homework is set centrally on Brightspace for all Y8s. Each week students are expected to complete the following:

- A forum/discussion response to a task set on Brightspace relating to their class work
- Personal reading for around 20 minutes each day
- A reading log at the end of the week that is submitted on Brightspace

Enrichment Themes

Where Next?