English @ WBS Year 7 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.

Myths and Legends

The Myths and Legends unit introduces students to the origins of story telling,. They will come across universal themes as well as the brave, mysterious and unusual characters of mythology.
We will encourage them to be thinking about:
• What makes a good story?
• What links can be made between these stories?
• Why are these tales still passed down?

Adventure Stories

After completing the SOW on Myths and Legends, this unit should allow students to think about stories from a writer's perspective and they can begin to hone their craft. They will be encouraged to think about:
• What makes an effective character or story line?
• What ways can a story be structured?
• How do writers get their ideas on to the page?

Class Novel – A Monster Calls OR Alice in Wonderland

This will be students' first study of a full novel at Secondary school. This unit of work will help students take what they have already learned in previous units and apply it to a much larger narrative. We will give students the opportunity to consider:
• How do I respond to this text, before, during and after reading?
• What interests me about the text and the writer's choices?
• How does reading this novel help me understand ideas outside of the text?

Introduction to Poetry

This unit of work will introduce students to a wide range of poetry from the traditional sonnet to contemporary slam poetry. They will recognise aesthetic and rhythmic qualities of a poem and how poets use these qualities to express ideas or feelings outside of typical prose. Students should be encouraged to consider:
• What makes a poem a poem?
• Why are some poems similar/different to each other?
• How do I say a lot in just a few words?

Oliver Twist (Drama)

In this unit, students will take a look at the a well known Dicken's novel from a dramatic perspective, both theoretically and practically. They will begin to look at dramatic conventions of a text and think about how a dramatist takes ideas from page to stage, bringing Victorian England to life. Students will be encouraged to consider:
• How does reading this play help me understand the time period it is set in?
• What are the benefits (or issues) with adaptations?
• How do physical and vocal skills change the way something is understood?

The Art of Rhetoric (Timetable Promotion)

This unit of work introduces students to the intricacies of persuasive writing and where the art of rhetoric finds its roots. They will be put in the position of the audience, the critic and the writer so they can develop their understanding further. Students will be encouraged to consider:
• Why are rhetoric and oracy seen as art forms?
• How can I use words to get what I want?
• Where can I see and recognise rhetoric in everyday life?
• How can I change the way I speak to appeal to my listener's logic, emotions and values?

Assessment

Year 7 will complete a baseline reading and writing test in their first two weeks with us. After that, the key assessment 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
- 2 Reading Assessments
- 1 Drama Assessment
- Speaking and Listening Assessment

Homework and Revision

Homework is set centrally on Brightspace for all Y7s. 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

- The texts we teach encourage students to think about the way the world works in different contexts. Units such as 'Myths and Legends' brings students in to contact with moral dilemmas and issues such as duty and pride.
- Our Poetry and Drama units encourage students to create and perform in front of an audience and build confidence in public speaking and think about careers in these areas.
- In their novel study, students will be encouraged to look at sensitive issues and empathise with characters and their varying situations.

Where Next?

In Year 8, you will build on the skills and knowledge you have developed in Year 7 and should be able to confidently apply it to new texts and genres not yet encountered. You will also complete your first in-depth study of a Shakespearean Comedy and take a look in to the world of Media Studies.