



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

What will students learn about in their year 7 English lessons?

Students will study six units in year 7. We review the units that we offer each academic year to ensure that the content is as stimulating as it can be, but for the current academic year, year 7 students will study the following units in English:

Unit 1 – Non-Fiction – Interesting Lives

Unit 2 – Young Adult Novel

Unit 3 – Prose – Literature through Time

Unit 4 – Play – The Canterbury Tales

Unit 5 – Short Stories – Diverse Shorts

Unit 6 – Poetry – Characters and Voices

How are students grouped for their English lessons?

We currently keep students in mentor groups for their English lessons during year 7. This ensures that students are able to become familiar with their English teachers and the new English skills that they learn at secondary school, and it enables teachers to get to know each student's strengths and weaknesses across a range of different units. Students are then grouped with students who have achieved similarly to them in English for their English lessons in year 8 and year 9, and these groups are reviewed at three points during each academic year.

How are students assessed in English?

Students are assessed continuously during their English lessons so that students and teachers know their strengths and are clear about what they need to do to improve. Students start their lessons in KS3 with a knowledge quiz based on their knowledge nugget homework, and they have at least two longer pieces of assessed work each term called checkpoints. We encourage students to try their hardest and see the importance of every English lesson that they have.

How are students who struggle with English supported?

As a department, we believe that all students should be given the opportunity to achieve excellence in English, and so we scaffold our lessons to ensure we support all students to move forward with their learning. If students are struggling in their English lessons during year 7, they may receive an additional period of English a fortnight, support from an LSA, or tasks that are carefully scaffolded so that they can achieve in lessons. We also work closely with the Learning Support Department to ensure students with SEN are supported and challenged in English.

What extra-curricular opportunities do you offer?

We offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities to students such as debate competitions, writing competitions, and reading challenges. We have benefitted in the past from visiting authors, poetry workshops, and visits from theatre companies who have produced exciting productions for us. This year, we are looking forward to inviting speakers into school who have English related careers, and we are also hoping to arrange a theatre visit for students towards the end of year 7.