

English Curriculum Overview | 2025 -2026



What will my child learn in: English

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 7	<p>Story and Sense of Self</p> <p>Big ideas: Empathy, creativity, cultural context, representation, identity, individuality, consumerism, friendship, family, truth and apologies.</p> <p>Core text: 'Some Places More Than Others' by Renee Watson</p> <p>Poetry: 'I come From' by Dean Attal 'Believe' by Neil Gaiman 'Dreams' by Langston Hughes 'Your World' by Georgia Douglas Johnston 'On Broadway' by Claude McKay 'Mother to Son' by Langston Hughes</p> <p>Non-fiction:</p> <p>Prologue to 'I am Malala' and / or Malala Yousafzai's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech</p>		<p>Growing and Learning -Victorian</p> <p>Big ideas: Class, adventure, benefactors, benevolence, bildungsroman, conflict, context, childhood, poverty, power, Victorian, identity, justice, crime, punishment, literary heritage, love.</p> <p>Core text: 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens</p> <p>Poetry: 'Havisham' - Carol Ann Duffy 'A Red, Red Rose' - Robert Burns 'A Rose from Concrete' - Tupac Shakur 'One Art' – Elizabeth Bishop</p> <p>Non-fiction: selection of thematically linked texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Century</p>		<p>Shakespeare's World and Our World</p> <p>Big ideas: Colonialism, British Empire, Shakespeare's theatre, betrayal, vengeance, liberty, obedience, rebellion, forgiveness, authority, patriarchy, supernatural, love, power, control.</p> <p>Core text: 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare.</p> <p>Poetry: 'Listen Mr Oxford Don'- John Agard 'Hollow'- Vanessa Kissule. 'To My Coral Bones' - Grace Nicholls Extract from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' – William Shakespeare</p> <p>Non-fiction: selection of thematically linked texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Century</p>	

Year 8

Rhetoric and Revolution

Big ideas: Power, control, resistance, conflict, equity, inequality, truth, rebellion, corruption, totalitarianism, exploitation, class, hierarchy, propaganda, tyranny, resistance, manipulation.

Core text: 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell

Poetry:

'I Dream a World' by Langston Hughes
'The Lake' by Roger McGough
'Everything Changes' by Cecily Herbert

Non-fiction: selection of thematically linked texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Century

Discovering the Gothic

Big ideas: Literary canon, Literary tradition, outsiders, isolation, psychology, representation, imagination, creativity, supernatural.

Core text: Gothic Anthology:

'The Woman in Black' by Susan Hill (extracts)
'The Tell-Tale Heart' by Edgar Allan Poe
'The Red Room' by HG Wells
'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley (extract)
'The Werewolf' Angela Carter
'Click Clack the Rattle Bag' by Neil Gaiman

Poetry:

'The Cold Earth Slept Below' by Percy Bysshe Shelley
'Spellbound' by Emily Bronte

Non-fiction: selection of thematically linked texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Century

Resilience and Resistance

Big ideas: Friendship, love, fate, freewill, justice, crime, responsibility, resilience, identity, prejudice, vanity, appearances, beauty, peer pressure.

Core text: 'Face' – the play by Benjamin Zephaniah

Poetry:

'Invictus' by William Ernest Henley
'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

Non-fiction:

Extract from *I Have a Dream* **speech** by Martin Luther King
An extract from a British Vogue **article** about Emma Radacanu
An extract from Shona Louise's **blog** about her frustrations as someone living with a disability.
Guardian **Obituary** of Benjamin Zephaniah
'Me? I thought, OBE me?...' **Article** by Benjamin Zephaniah

Year 9

Becoming and Belonging

Big ideas: Conflict, crime, punishment, cultural context, political context, historical context, gender and sexuality, honour, love, identity, justice, Omerta (mafia code of silence)

Core text: 'A View from the Bridge' by Arthur Miller

Poetry:

'The New Colossus' by Emma Lazarus
'Harlem' by Langston Hughes

Fiction Extracts:

'The Bell Jar' by Sylvia Plath
'Becoming' by Michelle Obama
'The Yellow Wallpaper' by Charlotte Perkins Gillman

Non-fiction: selection of thematically linked texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Century

Discovering the Fantastical

Big ideas: colonialism, imperialism, conflict, fear, creativity, contexts, horror, dystopia, literary heritage

Core text: Fantasy Anthology:

'Lord of the Rings' by J.R.R. Tolkien
'Dracula' by Bram stoker
'More Than This' by Patrick Ness
'My Swordhand is Singing' by Marcus Sedgwick
'The Knife of never letting Go' by Patrick Ness
'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins
'Tanglewreck' by Jeanette Winterson
'Metamorphosis' by Franz Kafka

Non-fiction:

'Weird Fiction' **essay** by H.P. Lovecraft
'Harry Potter is a con' **article** by Nicholas Lezard

Love and Loathing

Big ideas: Conflict, different perspectives/expectations, male power, romantic love, familial love, honour, justice, fate, Tragedy.

Core text: 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare.

Poetry:

'Invisible Kisses' by Lemn Sissay
'Valentine' by Carol Ann Duffy
'Come. And be my Baby' by Maya Angelou
'The Poison Tree' by William Blake

Non-fiction: selection of thematically linked texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Century

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Year 10	<p>Literature: Poetry: 5 poems from the 'Worlds and Lives' cluster of the AQA Anthology Poems taught within a cluster linked by theme with Literature and wider reading.</p> <p>A Christmas Carol: Read the whole text with attention to genre, plot, character, setting, big ideas and context.</p> <p>Language: Language Paper 1: Prose fiction extracts that link thematically with Literature texts. Extracts linked explicitly to themes and big ideas in the Literature texts.</p> <p>Use of themes and topics emerging from Literature as a springboard for creative writing Developing the skills of writing in descriptive and narrative styles</p>	<p>Literature: Poetry: 5 poems from the 'Worlds and Lives' cluster of the AQA Anthology Poems taught within a cluster linked by theme with Literature and wider reading.</p> <p>Macbeth: Read the whole text with attention to genre, plot, character, setting, big ideas and context.</p> <p>Language: Language Paper 2: Non - fiction extracts that link thematically with Literature texts. Extracts linked explicitly to themes and big ideas in the Literature texts.</p> <p>Developing knowledge and skills for writing argument and opinion Use of themes and topics emerging from Literature as a springboard for transactional writing</p>	<p>Literature: Poetry: 5 poems from the 'Worlds and Lives' cluster of the AQA Anthology Poems taught within a cluster linked by theme with Literature and wider reading.</p> <p>Re-teach: 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol' Through big ideas and characters – extract to whole text preparation.</p> <p>Language: Language Paper 2: Non - fiction extracts that link thematically with Literature texts. Extracts linked explicitly to themes and big ideas in the Literature texts.</p> <p>Developing knowledge and skills for writing argument and opinion Use of themes and topics emerging from Literature as a springboard for transactional writing</p>			

<p>Year 11</p>	<p><u>Literature:</u> Poetry: 7 poems from the 'Love and Relationships' cluster of the AQA Anthology Poems taught within a cluster linked by theme with Literature and wider reading.</p> <p><u>Language:</u> Language Paper 1: Prose fiction extracts that link thematically with Literature texts. Extracts linked explicitly to themes and big ideas in the Literature texts.</p> <p>Use of themes and topics emerging from Literature as a springboard for creative writing Developing the skills of writing in descriptive and narrative styles</p>	<p><u>Literature:</u> Re-teach: 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol' through big ideas and characters – extract to whole text preparation.</p> <p><u>Language:</u> Language Paper 2: Non - fiction extracts that link thematically with Literature texts. Extracts linked explicitly to themes and big ideas in the Literature texts.</p> <p>Developing knowledge and skills for writing argument and opinion Use of themes and topics emerging from Literature as a springboard for transactional writing</p>	<p><u>Literature:</u> Re-teach: 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol', poetry from the 'Love and Relationships' cluster of the AQA Anthology and 'An Inspector Calls' through big ideas and characters – extract to whole text preparation.</p> <p><u>Language:</u> Re- teach Language Paper 1 and 2: Exam preparation, practice papers, 'walking talking mocks'. Developing knowledge and skills for writing for purpose and form.</p>
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