



English Literature Curriculum Overview - Year 10

		Unit	Details
Autumn One	Macbeth Shakespeare		<p>We start Year 10 by studying Shakespeare's greatest tragedy: Macbeth. We complete an in depth reading of the play and discuss key components of plot, characters and themes such as power and ambition, fate and free will, masculinity and the supernatural. Alongside this, pupils watch performances of key scenes by the RSC and other productions to develop their understanding of stagecraft. Through in-class and independent research, pupils build on their knowledge of context, in particular the Great Chain of Being, the Gunpowder plot and Jacobean fear and fascination with the supernatural. Pupils also become familiar with dramatic terminology, Shakespeare's language and different receptions/audience responses. In the second half of the Autumn Term, pupils begin to explore an essay question demonstrating deep analysis skills using textual references from across the play to support their response.</p>
Autumn Two			
Spring One	Conflict Poetry		<p>Pupils study 15 poems from the OCR Conflict Poetry cluster, including 'Boat Stealing' by William Wordsworth, 'Lament' by Gillian Clarke and 'Partition' by Sujata Bhatt. We identify and interpret key themes, ideas and poetic structures of the poems and make informed personal responses, justifying our point of view by referring closely to evidence in the text. Exploring the poems in depth, we take a critical approach and analyse how the poets use language (including figurative language), form and structure to create effects and impact readers. In order to enhance pupils' understanding of themes and literary styles, we make connections and contrasts between poems, comparing features and qualities.</p>
Spring Two			
Summer One	Jekyll and Hyde Novel Study		<p>We study Stevenson's 19th Century Gothic novella, 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Hyde' and explore key aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings. Pupils develop their critical reading skills and engage personally with a 19th century text of enduring appeal. A significant focus is on the context of the novella and so we study relevant issues of the Victorian period, including the effects of science and technology on society, the importance and expectation of the Victorian gentleman and <i>fin-de-siècle</i> fears. The life of Stevenson and his experiences and views of Victorian society allow pupils to develop their understanding of the novella and its reception. Applying their knowledge of context, pupils are guided to develop their own viewpoints supported by textual evidence and, at the same time, recognise that there are different interpretations that other readers could make.</p>
Summer Two	An Inspector Calls Modern Drama		<p>We read and study J.B Priestley's play, 'An Inspector Calls' and respond to key themes such as social responsibility, class and gender. Pupils will develop a personal and critical response to the play by exploring key ideas, characters and their relationships, while showing an awareness of social and historical context. Pupils are guided to explore the text at a literal level and also consider deeper implications. We look at literary contexts in reading, for example symbolism and allegory for effect, and analyse how language, structure, form and stage-craft impact on audiences' interpretation of the play.</p>