

English Literature Curriculum Overview - Year 9

		Unit	Details
Autumn One	Novel Study		<p>In this unit, pupils study a modern classic from the 20th century - either 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding or 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell - and examine characterisation, plot development and themes such as power, control and corruption. We consider the purpose and impact of an allegorical novel and pupils are guided to think about a text's meaning on multiple levels, including what the characters symbolise in terms of humanity and society as a whole. Pupils will study key moments from the novel in depth and will make analytical comments on the writer's use of language, structure and form to create meanings, examining literary devices such as foreshadowing, satire and personification. Through an exploration of context, we will consider how historical and societal events influenced the novel's production and reception.</p>
Autumn Two			
Spring One	Shakespearean Villains		<p>In this unit, pupils are introduced to Shakespeare's greatest villains from <i>Lago</i>, the scheming adviser who steers Othello to murder his wife, to the cunning anti-hero, Richard III, who will stop at nothing to achieve his nefarious designs. We read key scenes from each play and discuss characterisation, dramatic devices and stagecraft. Pupils also watch sections from different live and film productions to strengthen their understanding of the play in performance. To build on their knowledge of life during Elizabethan and Jacobean England, pupils examine gender roles and masculinity considering how these factors influenced Shakespeare's writing. Choosing a villain to explore in depth, pupils will write a detailed analytical response which shows clear understanding and uses textual references to support their response.</p>
Spring Two			
Summer One	Diverse Voices in Poetry		<p>OCR have added a range of diverse voices to their English Literature syllabus and in this unit we study these poems by Ilya Kaminsky, Fred D'Aguiar, Louise Bennett and more. We explore the context, ideas and poetic structures of the poems and consider how they relate the theme of conflict. Pupils will strengthen their understanding of poetic terminology and will use it to discuss language, structure and form. Through written tasks in response to the poems, pupils will demonstrate their understanding and will use quotations to support their interpretations.</p>
Summer Two	Modern Drama		<p>We study a well-known and loved play by Arthur Miller ('The Crucible', 'Death of a Salesman' or 'All My Sons') and explore how the playwright addresses issues such as power conflicts, personal and social responsibility, the repercussions of past actions and the twin poles of guilt and hope. We read the play, discuss characterisation and dramatic devices and the stagecraft of Miller. Pupils will explore scenes in depth and consider how Miller creates tension between characters considering the way the characters speak, move, interact and respond to one another.</p>