

English at St Joseph's Catholic High School

The English department enhance students' lives in the study of English Language and Literature by fulfilling the St Joseph's Mission statement; Living, loving, learning through Christ.

We strive to make learning fun, inspire a love of reading and a thirst for knowledge in our students, developing them as independent and enquiring learners. In order to achieve our aim, we endeavour to:

- Ensure all students make outstanding progress, regardless of their starting point.
- Ensure all English lessons include relevant challenges, pupil engagement and a focus on celebrating success.
- Build oracy skills, encouraging students to use Standard English and to elaborate their ideas verbally through a range of different activities.
- Provide all students with the opportunity to study a wide range of engaging fiction and non-fiction texts to help develop into insightful and perceptive readers.
- Promote independent reading time and develop a love of reading with all students to encourage them to read for pleasure and become lifelong readers.
- Provide students opportunities to participate in a wide range of learning experiences, developing them as effective communicators and active learners.
- Help all students develop into creative, analytical and independent thinkers.
- Encourage all pupils to develop skills to enable them to write, read and speak Standard English fluently and accurately.
- Enable all students to develop effective writing skills so that pupils can express themselves precisely and fluently in a range of forms, for different purposes and audiences, communicating meaning and developing ideas effectively and controlling grammar and structure appropriately.
- Provide a supportive, engaging and challenging learning environment to help students achieve their very best.
- Provide students with opportunities to develop oracy skills and develop their confidence when taking part in public speaking.
- Prepare students for the world of Higher Education and work by guiding them to successful assessments and raising their aspirations.

English at Key Stage 3

At KS3 students study a combination of Language and Literature units of work. These are taught over 3 lessons a week for years 7 and 8, and 4 lessons a week for year 9 students. Year 7 and 8 also have a reading lesson each week with the Learning Support department. Students

complete weekly reading homework and have a weekly SPaG test in which they are tested on vocabulary linked to the unit of work and tier 2 vocabulary. Additionally, students use Frayer Model starters to develop their knowledge of new vocabulary, and are tested twice a term on key tier 2 vocabulary for the topic and on elaboration words (synonyms linked to the key vocabulary for each unit). We have also built links to the JPP virtues into our units, so these are also introduced to students. In order to help students consolidate their learning during lockdown, we have also created homework booklets and are using 'flashback' lessons in order to revisit prior learning to help secure their English knowledge and build memory. These are especially important in light of all the disruption to learning caused by the COVID pandemic. We are also going to be using SENECA learning, a free online learning platform, for homework which will be engaging for students and which will complement our curriculum.

Year 7

The Year 7 curriculum aims to expose students to a range of authors and genres from different Cultures. Each unit of work is tailored to meet the KS3 learning objectives, building on prior learning at KS2. The KS3 curriculum will help students to develop a comprehensive understanding of a range of cultural texts, seminal world literature and non-fiction from the Literary heritage canon and more contemporary texts. The curriculum will enable students to have a wider understanding of what we mean by culture, identity and diversity and how people may have faced persecution over time because of who they are or what they believe in.

We have altered our usual transition scheme and created a 'Getting to know you' writing unit, enabling us to discuss our experiences of the pandemic, build relationships with students and identify gaps in learning. We feel that the wellbeing of our students, alleviating any anxieties and ensuring students feel settled and supported is the main priority - especially as our transition work continues to be curtailed.

We have also been in touch with feeder primary schools in order to try to identify potential gaps in students' learning, so that we can adapt our schemes of work to ensure that our students are where they need to be.

Autumn 1&2:

- 'Getting to know you' – (writing first person narratives, interviewing skills)
- Poetry from different cultures

Spring 1&2:

- Class novel – (Noughts & Crosses sets 1 - 3, contemporary short stories with a focus on culture, racism and identity sets 4 and 5)

Summer 1& 2:

- Reading Skills - a consolidation unit to ensure students have mastered the building blocks for reading – comprehension, reading for meaning, inference and language analysis, whilst broadening their vocabulary.

- Shakespeare: Studying 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', role play and script writing

Year 8

The Year 8 curriculum aims to expose students to a range of authors and genres from different time periods. Each unit of work links into key skills and builds on prior learning at KS2 and in Year 7, bringing in debating and formal discussions and pushing to evaluate in their reading. The KS3 curriculum will help students to develop a comprehensive understanding of a range of genres including fiction and non-fiction from the Literary heritage canon and more contemporary texts. Pupils will look at the power of people through time and the powerless, people who have been persecuted. They will explore both non-fiction and literature texts to help them understand the world they live in and the people in it.

Autumn 1&2: Literature

- Class novel (Sets 1&2 Animal Farm, sets 2 - 4 The Hunger Games, set 5 Dystopian short stories)

Spring 1&2: Language

- Non-fiction: People in power and people without power – (A reading unit, followed by a writing and speaking unit)

Summer 1&2:

- The Art of Rhetoric – a consolidation unit, ensuring students are familiar with the language of rhetoric and are able to analyse the writer's use of language to persuade and argue

- Macbeth and creative writing

Year 9

The year 9 curriculum aims to build on skills and knowledge obtained in year 7 and 8. In year 9, students will continue to develop both Language and Literature analytical and evaluative skills, starting to make comparisons across texts. They will build on creative and transactional writing skills, using Literature texts as a stimulus. Students will also develop their understanding of context and the wider world, both historical and in the modern day.

The over-arching theme for the year is inequality and injustice in society. We feel that in light of the current issues in society, it is important to address mental health, racism and injustice at all levels to help students understand the world we live in.

Autumn 1&2

- Study of class novel—('Of Mice and Men' – sets 1-4, 'The Sign of Four' – set 5)

- Narrative writing based on themes, characters and ideas in the class novel

Spring 1 & 2

- WW1 Poetry and creative writing

- 19th Century Literature and Dickens or Romanticism SOW

Summer 1&2

- Study of the play 'An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestley

English at Key Stage 4

All students study AQA GCSE English Language and English Literature. Students have 5 lessons a week, with an additional Literacy lesson for sets 5 and 6. Lessons are divided between Language and literature in accordance with the KS4 Long term plans, students will also have a weekly 'Throwback Thursday' lesson in which they revisit texts studied earlier in the year, develop recall of Literature quotations for set texts or revise key skills and consolidate prior learning.

Year 10

Autumn term 1 & 2

- Literature - An Inspector Calls

- Language - Paper 1 section A and B

- Weekly throwback lesson – Revising Language skills covered in year 9

Spring 1 & 2

- Literature – Poetry (Power and Conflict)

- Language - Paper 1 consolidation of reading skills

- Weekly Throwback lesson - Revising An Inspector Calls.

Summer 1 & 2

- Literature - Romeo and Juliet

- Language – Transactional writing (Lang Paper 2)

- Spoken Language presentations