

Key Stage 3

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Year 7

Through the theme of Other Worlds we ignite the imagination by exploring classic and modern texts. An initial transition unit uses texts such as Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. An exploration of the Gothic leads to some non-fiction writing. Through the medium of poetry we continue our exploration of other cultures and periods. Later in the year, we study Susan Cooper's *King of Shadows* before students are introduced to Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In doing so, we teach:

- Creative reading and writing and the language of analysis.
- Knowledge of how writers can use language, structure and form to entertain, inform and persuade.

Year 8

To expose pupils to a diverse range of texts we look at the theme of identity. Pupils study *The Other Side of Truth* by Beverley Naidoo and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. We also look at poetry from Amnesty International's Words That Burn initiative and a range of non-fiction texts that might include William Bligh's account of the Mutiny on the Bounty and works written by Charles Dickens and Dorothy Wordsworth.

In doing so, we teach:

- The art of reading and writing from a viewpoint and the language of expression and identity.

Year 9

Through the theme of Power and Conflict we begin the year examining the rhetoric of conflict to be found in speeches from Elizabeth I, Sojourner Truth, Martin Luther King and Colonel Tim Collins. We teach texts that include *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as the poetry of Ted Hughes, Carol Ann Duffy and others.

In doing so, we teach:

- The art of reading and writing in different forms for different purposes and audiences and the language of rhetoric.
- How language can assert ideologies of power, portray human frailty and evoke empathy.

Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11, we continue our journey begun at Key Stage 3 and build on the knowledge students have already acquired. In doing so, we teach students so they deepen their knowledge of texts from across different time periods.

At GCSE, there are mixed ability teaching groups following the AQA GCSE specifications in English Language and English Literature (8700 and 8702). Students study for both these qualifications across 8 lessons per fortnight. GCSE English Language and English Literature specifications both have one tier of entry and are assessed entirely by written examination at the end of the course.

For English Language GCSE, students study a variety of high quality fiction and non-fiction writing across a range of text types from the past and present:

- Fiction
- Literary non-fiction
- Descriptive writing
- Narrative writing

Speaking and listening skills are assessed in this specification but are accredited through a separate qualification.

[Click here](#) to view details of the AQA GCSE English Language specification.

For English Literature GCSE, students study a range of high-quality literary texts from the past and present, including:

- Poetry (from the AQA Poetry Anthology power and conflict cluster and unseen poetry)
- A Shakespeare play (Macbeth)
- A 19th century text (A Christmas Carol)
- A modern text (Lord of the Flies)

[Click here](#) to view details of the AQA GCSE English Literature specification.

Key Stage 5

At A level, the English department offers highly successful courses in English Literature and in Film Studies.

English Literature

Students follow the OCR English Literature syllabus (H472).

Students complete three components

Shakespeare and pre-1900 poetry and drama

Prose texts organised by theme e.g. American Literature, Gothic Literature, Dystopian Literature, Immigrant experience Literature

There is also a non-examined assessment (NEA) which is worth 20% of the final qualification. The NEA allows students to produce their own re-creative writing as well as an independent study of contemporary literature across all three genres.

[Click here](#) to view the A level English Literature specification.

Film Studies

The Film Studies group follows the OCR (H410) A Level Film Studies specification.

Students complete three components:

Film History (study of films from three periods in 20th century US film history; study films from two major European film movements)

Critical Approaches (study of contemporary British and contemporary US film; study of documentary; study of non-European, non-English language film; study of US independent film)

The non-examined assessment (NEA) gives students the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills through the production of a 5-minute short film or a 10-minute screenplay.

[Click here](#) to view the A Level Film Studies specification.

Enrichment

The English Department also looks to develop this love and knowledge of language by inviting students to take part in a wide range of extracurricular activities each year . These include:

- the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition
- the Young Writer Competition
- Poetry By Heart, BBC
- The Carnegie prize book club

The department has had significant success with the Poetry By Heart competition, in both 2021 and 2022 a KLB student reached the prestigious final at the Globe Theatre, performing on the stage there.

Additionally, the department runs:

- KS3 Book Club
- KS3 Film Club
- KS3 Poetry Club
- KS3 Creative Writing Club
- KS4 Book Club
- KS4 KS5 and Staff Poetry Club