



Curriculum Summary Document

Year 8 English

Module/Unit of Learning	Term Taught	What will students learn?	How will this build a broad and strong foundation?	Links to other subjects
Gothic Literature	Autumn 1	Students will explore Gothic conventions by reading a variety of extracts such as Dracula, Wuthering Heights and The Tell-Tale Heart, exploring how the writers use language to convey a sense of foreboding. Students also identify what makes an unreliable narrator before writing their own Gothic story opening.	This unit will build on previous creative writing units that focused on language features, crafting their writing further. This will underpin further creative writing.	Art
Cultural Poetry	Autumn 2	Students will read a variety of poems from around the world, exploring what the meaning of poetry is and what messages/ideas each poem attempts to convey. Students will also identify what poetic devices are used within each poem to convey these ideas, as well as their effects.	Students will understand different forms and poetic techniques which will form the understanding when they study poetry in Year 9 and subsequent poetry units.	Geography, History
Romeo and Juliet	Spring	Students will read the whole play and explore how the context of the Elizabethan era relates to how Juliet and other women are treated. Students will analyse key scenes and characters, and will answer a GCSE-style question about Romeo's character. Key vocabulary will also be studied, exposing students to new words such as sagacious, nihilistic and Petrarchan.	Students will broaden their knowledge of the period Shakespeare wrote in and some of the issues of the time, supporting their reading of Shakespeare in subsequent years. They will continue to hone their analytical skills – supporting their views with precise quotes.	Drama, History
Women in Literature	Summer 1	Students will explore how women are presented in literature through a variety of extracts such as Orange is Not the Only Fruit, Jane Eyre, The Handmaid's Tale and To Kill a Mockingbird. Students will look at the context of each extract and will apply this to an analysis of Scout Finch's character.	The unit will broaden skills of close analysis and allow them to explore different periods of writing.	PSHE, History
Refugee Boy	Summer 2	Students will read the whole novel by Benjamin Zephaniah and will use the text as stimulus for non-fiction writing. Students will consolidate their understanding of the non-fiction form by writing a persuasive speech about Refugees, inspired by Alem Kelo's experience.	Reading a novel will allow students to explore how a writer develops ideas across a text. Students will broaden their non-fiction writing, crafting their opinion writing and considering purpose in more detail. This will prepare them for writing and spoken language in subsequent years.	History, Geography