

we regularly review content to ensure we continue to meet our curriculum aims. The English curriculum is covered through schemes of work, lesson planning, homework, extended independent work, and extra-curricular activities.

Our curriculum is planned to enable all students to develop: a knowledge, understanding and wide range of transferable literacy skills that promote and encourage a love of reading and a willingness to apply themselves to new challenges both across the curriculum and independently; a natural sense of curiosity and a drive to question, argue and persuade; the encouragement of creativity and risk taking; the reading of contemporary and literary texts that promote positive and healthy lifestyles, British values of mutual respect and a love of learning about other cultures and traditions; the encouragement of purposeful talk and attentive listening skills in collaborative work and a development of the emotional skills required to listen. Pupils are able to use their knowledge and skills in language and literature to open possibilities in the world of work and post 16 opportunities. Throughout our programmes of study, every attempt is made to make explicit links to careers and the world of work. In addition to subject specific links, we aim to explicitly reinforce the skills and aptitudes which employers say are important in the workplace:

- Aiming high, **staying positive** and resilience
- Communication skills (listening, speaking, presenting)
- Teamwork and problem solving
- **Creativity** and thinking skills
- Self-management and **leadership**

The British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect of those with different faiths and beliefs are taught explicitly and reinforced in the way in which the school operates.

Sequence and structure

Our curriculum is split into Key Stage 3 (years 7, 8 and 9) and Key Stage 4 (10 and 11). We have broadened KS3 to three years so that students have an opportunity to deepen knowledge and refine skills to prepare them for the demands of Key Stage 4. At the end of Year 9, pupils will complete a Language and Literature transition unit to support their conversion to KS4. We teach to termly and yearly end points so that knowledge and skills are continually and consistently developed and embedded through each scheme of learning.

Literacy

In addition to the literacy taught within the English curriculum, a bespoke, weekly reading lesson is offered by the English department in Year 7 and 8; this focuses on RISE: read, investigate, succeed, enjoy. These lessons aim to develop pupils' love of reading by focusing on the reading and discussion of a class novel for enjoyment. We endeavour to select contemporary novels which pupils will find relatable, entertaining, and challenging. During these lessons, reading skills are taught explicitly and are reinforced and utilised across the curriculum. We know that students who read well achieve well. As such, all subject areas are committed to providing regular opportunities to read extensively. We have a different whole school reading focus each half term and this is reinforced and consolidated in RISE reading lessons. We also provide regular opportunities for students to read for pleasure and to receive small group interventions if their reading skills are lower than we would expect using Reading Plus as a whole school reading intervention