



The High School
Leckhampton

Year 8 ENGLISH

Topic Titles

- Non-fiction Reading and Writing – Social Media
- Novel – Animal Farm
- Creative Writing – ‘Outsiders’
- Poetry – War Poetry
- Speaking and Listening – ‘Female Voices’

Links with other subjects

Literacy is the cornerstone of all subjects, so the work that we do in English is integral.

Furthermore, there are many links between: English and History, including exploring the connections between texts and their different contexts.

English and RE, including exploring the connections between texts, their different religious contexts.

English and Drama, including studying plays, exploring context and speaking publicly.

English and MFL, including grammar, sentence organisation and the etymology of words.

English and Personal Development, including exploring empathy.

Intent

Our intent for our Year 8 English curriculum is for it to be rigorous, exciting and balanced, with the National Curriculum at its core. Our curriculum will be transformational, equipping our pupils, regardless of their starting point, with a wide range of knowledge and skills, enabling them to fulfil their potential and realise their ambitions. Ultimately, our aim for our English curriculum is to ensure that pupils are equipped with the necessary literacy skills so that they can excel in the wider world, in any career that they desire, and that foundation is developed in Year 8.

Our key aims and intent for our Year 8 English curriculum is:

To continue to embed and ensure development of pupils' core understanding and knowledge of the skills required to succeed at KS3 and beyond.

To continue to expose pupils to a range and wealth of texts, from varied contexts, aiming to expand their knowledge and understanding of genres, time periods and cultures, building upon the solid base established in Year 7.

To continue to promote and encourage wider reading of increasingly challenging texts and to continue to promote reading.

How will knowledge and skills be taught?

Pupils will be focusing on building a solid foundation of skills on which to develop and progress throughout KS3 and beyond. The skills the pupils will be taught are

Planning and writing creatively, including organising ideas through paragraphing and punctuation. Planning and writing for varied purposes, including to inform, persuade and argue, including organising ideas through paragraphing and punctuation. Reading a range of non-fiction and fiction texts, from different contexts and time periods in order to retrieve information and infer knowledge. Reading a range of text types, including poetry & plays, from different contexts and time periods. Selecting appropriate quotations to analyse language, structure and form, using appropriate technical devices. Comparing attitudes and methods presented in texts, using their skills of inference. Planning and speaking purposefully, in front of an audience.

The teaching and promotion of tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary.

How can parents help?

The single most important practice that parents can help their children with at home is to promote reading regularly. Evidence demonstrates a strong correlation between students who regularly read and those achieving levels 7, 8 and 9s in their GCSE exams. Not only does reading boost grades and levels achieved, but it also improves vocabulary, written expression and develops a sensitive understanding and appreciation of contexts different to student's own. As well as encouraging reading, parents can help to encourage and promote the use of tier 2 vocabulary at home, so that it becomes a common part of their everyday speech.

Parents can help support students with their English homework that they'll receive once a week, ensuring that it is done to the very best of their ability and that maximum effort has been put in, to every single piece.

Finally, if parents wish to offer even more support, then we recommend utilising BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning as interactive learning tools to work alongside our current topics.

Recommended Reading and Preparation for Learning

Recommended reading for Year 8 English at HSL:

- '1984' by George Orwell
- 'Kindred' by Octavia E. Spencer
- 'Chinese Cinderella' by Adeline Yen Mah
- 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' by Mark Haddon
- 'The Flame Trees of Thika' by Elspeth Huxley