



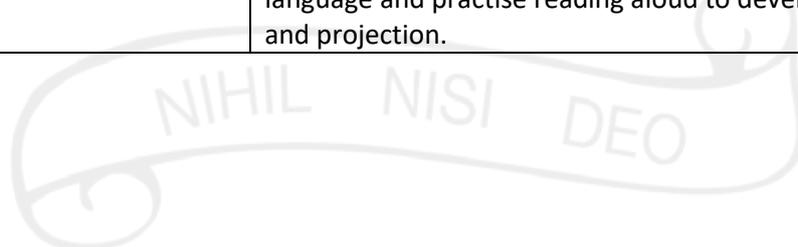
English Language



Curriculum Overview Key Stage 3&4

KEY STAGE 3		
	Topic	Key Themes
YEAR 7	Transition from Primary	In this unit students are introduced to the core writing skills needed for KS3 including building vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and sentence construction.
	Autobiographies	In this unit we read the comical diary of Adrian Mole, learn about the features of autobiographies, and write a letter to be rescued from a desert island, developing first person writing. Students are given quick revision CPG HW grammar books which they complete over the year to boost skills. This is supplemented by access to SPAG Monsters an online game to revise and improve literacy.
	Monster Calls	In this unit students are introduced to a novel where a monster comes looking for a boy who has a lot of problems, including that his mother has cancer. Students develop their core reading skills improving their reading age.
	Hound of the Baskervilles	Students read this book about Sherlock Holmes in order to inspire their own detective stories. They also watch a film about a more modern detective to utilise narrative techniques from both texts. Our ghost tour trip and graphic novel version also adds to this understanding. The higher reading age provides a platform to practise the skill of inferring meaning based on context – utilised at GCSE.

	Noughts and Crosses	Students read this play and enjoy discussing and debating issues of race, oppression and injustice, improving verbal expression and building spoken language skills, transferable for a range of contexts.
	Wyrd sisters	Students gain an intro to Shakespeare's Macbeth in this funny Pratchett tale based on an alternative comic version of the play. They use the play to engage with some persuasion and travel writing, including a visit and tour of the Wyrd Sister cottage. This enables them to build vocabulary and write for a specific audience and purpose. They meet the real Wyrd Sisters in Year 10 when reading Macbeth.
	The Tempest	Students have the opportunity to engage with Shakespeare's language having read the school version of the play and developed speaking and listening skills by preparing and delivering speeches for key characters using original comic scenes. They also have an introduction to Shakespeare via a theatre company, furthering understanding of Shakespeare's dramas as spoken language texts.
	Topic	Key Themes
YEAR 8	Of Mice and Men or Darkside	Students explore the idea of society's outsiders and concepts of alienation in either novel. They will be able to discuss genre and critical issues that remain pertinent to today's world and make those connections. They will develop their ability to express opinions effectively. Students also have access to SPAG Monsters and LITERACY PLANET to boost grammar and writing skills.
	Hunger Games	Students read part of the book in class and also in tutor times and see parts of the film. This inspires them to write an assessment where they must persuade someone to replace them in the Hunger Games. The use of humour and persuasion provide a good baseline for the mature use of these skills later on in the GCSE Language Paper 2.
	Romeo and Juliet	This unit gives students a chance to engage with the original play and see the interpretation in film. Students will develop their ability to read more complex texts, including inferring from context. They will also read aloud parts, practising how to emotively and accurately express complex language.
	Gangsta Rap	Our students love this Bildungsroman novel which tells the tale of teenagers who become famous Hip-hop stars but have to learn life lessons on the way. It paves the way for some good debating and developing of oracy skills and the chance to write a sound written argument connecting to current issues related to Hip Hop music. This also links to GCSE English Language where they must show these skills.
	Frankenstein	This play based upon the book is a good way to enable students to further understand the nineteenth century language and practise reading aloud to develop expression and projection.



	Martyn Pig	Year 8 enjoy this modern piece of crime fiction that keeps you guessing right until the end. They write an imaginative piece based on this book using their knowledge of crime genre and use some more sophisticated narrative techniques to advance their English language writing skills-critical to GCSE and beyond.
	Topic	Key Themes
YEAR 9	Christmas Carol	This lovely novella enables students to explore more of the Capitalist 19C context feeding into GCSE. They will advance their reading ages by reading the original Victorian text in full. They can also see this performed by a theatre company in school to enhance understanding. Students also have homework set via Literacy Planet to supplement Year 9 HW and boost Language skills.
	Gregory's' Girl	This comic visit to the 1980s makes for good debate on gender equality and equity in society. The play facilitates discussion to reach the crux of the matter and students write an opinion piece on these wider issues. They will build on these skills to pave the way for GCSE and beyond.
	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	This excellent play (which we go to see if it is touring) looks at developing student's ability to better understand vulnerable people in society as the central character is ASD. It provides food for thought and enables students to discuss wider perspectives and minorities in society, thus developing as responsible and informed citizens.
	Rani and Sukh	This Asian version of a well-known love story is very popular with our students. It enables students to further develop and discuss wider perspectives and marginalised groups in society developing their competence in spoken English as well as becoming increasingly informed.
	The Importance of Being Earnest	This nineteenth century comedy is a fabulous treat for our year 9s. They develop the skills for English Language analysis at GCSE and the ability to write with sophisticated wit and humour.
	The Bunker Diaries	This modern thriller is a fast-paced engaging read which is used to revise and embed vital literacy skills in preparation for GCSE. Students develop core spelling, punctuation, and grammar (including the related terminology) as well as writing techniques and vocabulary based on the author techniques.



KEY STAGE 4**Examination Specification:****AQA GCSE English Language and English Literature**

	Topic	Key Themes
YEAR 10	Macbeth	This is a great play that students really enjoy and study in depth at GCSE. Students will also see the play in action via a theatre company. They will also begin the BEDROCK programme to support developing their vocabulary skills throughout the year.
	Macbeth	Students will develop their reading ages by reading the whole of Macbeth in the original language and give opinions and perspectives on this text.
	Language	Students develop their method of approach to the Language Paper 1 at GCSE. They will have a mock paper which gives an indicator of how they are progressing at GCSE.
	Lord of the Flies or An Inspector Calls	This modern text is also on the exam. It enables students to think about society and the bigger picture- connecting to year 9 ideas about equity and equality. Students will have the opportunity to develop spoken competency in discussions on these texts.
	Power and Conflict Poetry and Unseen poetry.	This set of war poetry is also on the exam. Students will learn about a variety of historical and diverse contexts enriching their understanding of the world and facilitating development into responsible and informed global citizens.
	Jekyll and Hyde	This nineteenth century novel is a good read after the earlier 19 th century texts that students have read. Students will read this in full and develop their reading age and other reading abilities such as comprehension.
	Topic	Key Themes
YEAR 11	Paper 1 and 2	We study the methods of approach for this paper and work on writing skills for a creative piece and an article to argue a point of view that students need to write in the exam. Mocks for this exam are in November. This is underpinned by Bedrock GCSE which enhances written accuracy and competency. Students will also further develop the skills by completing a GCSE workbook as homework to secure success in the English Language exam.
	Unseen poetry and SPL	Students study how to approach unseen poetry and use music lyrics and modern poems by exciting contemporary poets such as Shane Kozak and Prince Ea. They also perform presentations on the topics raised for English Language speaking and listening grades.

Revision of Language	Students complete smaller units of work revising their key questions and skills such as evaluation for the language exam. They can also attend holiday intervention for additional support as they have mock exams in March.
Revision of key Language aspects	Students will study aspects of the exam that the mock exams reveal to be a weakness. This may vary from class to class. Interventions after school will also run.
Revision of key language	Students will continue to revise the topics of their choice/exam informed choices post Easter to support exam preparation.
Final Exams	Revision sessions will be arranged to support various students in different ways undertaking these exams.

Extracurricular and Enrichment opportunities

Within English there are a variety of opportunities. We have showcased some of our extended learning and other independent pieces. We know that every student, regardless of circumstances, can produce truly wonderful and fantastic work. We are very proud of them. Please see the below link to see some examples of outstanding pieces of work written by students of all abilities and backgrounds.

Every student is given additional resources to supplement their learning. In addition to the extended learning projects we set, students also utilise our IT programmes of Literacy Planet (all year groups) Spag Monsters (Year 7 and 8) Bedrock Grammar (Year 8) and Bedrock Vocabulary and GCSE (Year 10 and 11). GCSE students are all awarded their own set of books to ensure every student has a copy of every book on the exam. Year 7 students are also all given a CPG grammar book each and Year 11 students are also receiving GCSE Language CPG books to support their English Language GCSE.

Every student has the opportunity to enjoy some fun- filled revision and knowledge enrichment to ensure what they learn stays with them. We run a number of end of term activities in which students consolidate their learning with a variety of activities from the recreation and tableau staging of the Battle scene from Macbeth to making English themed lunch boxes in Year 7. Additional enrichment includes in house theatre productions, trips such as GCSE Poetry Live and our after-school revision competitions such as Hot Chocolate Quiz night. We ask for a voluntary contribution for some of these activities to ensure we can continue to provide the extra enrichment resources.

