

English

Curriculum Manager: Mrs Dunleavy

Teaching Staff: Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Packwood, Mrs Dixon, Miss Clayton, Miss Dorward, Mr Griffin, Miss Hagan, Miss Roberts, Mrs Speakman, Miss Shaw and Mr Taylor

Curriculum Overview: Pupils will continue their learning journey by studying a unit on Monsters. This will incorporate both media and extracts for pupils to explore and analyse. Exploring structure is also an important aspect of learning in this unit. Pupils then move on to a writing unit where they examine the features of constructing an argument and gradually learn to construct their own arguments. After the Christmas break, pupils will study 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare. This unit aims to develop skills exploring the effects of Shakespeare's dramatic devices. Sticking with the theme of dreams, pupils will move onto a writing scheme after half term. This unit entitled 'Dreamscape' focuses on narrative writing. In the final term of year 8 pupils will study a novel about two brothers set during the first world war. They will compare this to other genres such as some of the war poetry. To end their year 8 learning pathway in year 8, pupils will continue with the WW1 theme and study a collection of letters from the front. They will then learn the features of letter writing through producing their own letters.

Topic Studied- Term 1

Monsters Unit

Effects of a trailer on a viewer – Stranger Things
Understanding and making inferences
Effect of language – The Hobbit
Multiple meanings of words
Pupils will examine explicit and implicit meanings - A Case of Murder
Also exploring Non-fiction texts such as an account on the Peterloo Massacre
Finally, they will learn the art of evaluating a text – Woman in Black.

Writing to argue:

What is writing to argue?
Rules of writing.
The art of rhetoric
Pupils will experiment with rhetorical methods and sentence construction
Punctuation for impact
Punctuation and sentence construction for purpose.
Vocabulary.
Learning from other writers how to develop an argument

Topic Studied- Term 2

A Midsummer Night's Dream:

Pupils will read their first Shakespearean play at secondary school and explore how Shakespeare uses language and structure to present his characters and ideas about society. They will learn about the history of the genre and understand how life at the time impacted on the plot and Shakespeare's intentions. Finally, exploring his use of dramatic devices and their effect.

Dreamscape – fiction writing:

Pupils will explore settings and how to create settings. They will examine the art of characterisation and how to make an informed choice of narrative style.
They will continue to build on their use of linguistic devices and really focus on the power of words and the desired effect on the reader.

Topic Studied- Term 3

Comparing Private Peaceful and other texts:

Pupils will explore how writers engage an audience
Moving on to comparing extracts from novels.
Then examining writer's presentation of a character and comparing characters from different texts.
Analysing writer's use of language in WW1 recruitment. This aims to generate some cross curricular links with history.
Pupils will also examine structural devices.

Letter writing – stimulus WW1 letters

Pupils will read letters from the front line and explore what they can infer about how the soldiers felt. They will explore life in the trenches and the concept of censorship and propaganda.
Finally, pupils will produce their own letters

Assessments:

Reading and writing assessments take place each term. On top of this there will also be spelling tests and subject terminology tests.

Homework:

Homework is set each week by the class teacher on 'Show My Homework'. In the case where a class has more than one teacher it is the teacher the pupils see most who sets the homework. Pupils should also be spending time reading at home to support their literacy skills.

Other Useful Information:

Throughout the year we celebrate various events which help us to engage pupils with the subject. Roald Dahl Day, National Poetry Day, Harry Potter Night, World Book Day and Readathon are examples of such events.