

Subject Overview

Year 7 English



English forms the basis for our development, relationships and our understanding of the world around us. The study of English is key to our personal growth and, through the development of effective written and spoken communication, it is the foundation for all our learning. The ability to communicate competently, confidently and with clarity is crucial in school, but also in becoming an effective participant in our wider society with skills of communication being key to accessing the world of work and in navigating adult life. In a fast paced, global world the importance of fluent written and spoken English is crucial and it is essential that we develop these skills through an effective English curriculum.

As our students progress through the English curriculum, they are continually developing their close reading skills through exposure to increasingly challenging fiction and non-fiction, which include works by 19th, 20th and 21st century writers. We want our students to be able to engage with a range of texts with confidence and to develop their skills in decoding difficult texts, gathering carefully selected evidence, evaluating texts in detail and possessing the ability to explore multiple texts simultaneously to formulate and articulate personal viewpoints. The development of these skills feeds directly into their study of spoken language and the importance of verbal communication in accessing the world around them. Opportunities have been created for students to debate and discuss their ideas through a range of individual and group presentations, speeches, performing plays and reading aloud. We firmly believe that exposure to a range of opportunities builds a confidence in students and allows them to develop their life-long skills in verbal communication.

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At A Level, the curriculum offer is carefully guided by our commitment to offering a diet of texts which we believe students will enjoy, engage with and form strong, well-informed opinions on. The course aims to inspire a lifelong love of reading and critical inquiry. By developing key academic and personal skills, students will be well-prepared for both further study and a wide range of careers, equipped to navigate and contribute to a complex and ever-changing world.

Term		Year 7 English underpins all themes in L4L
Autumn	Core themes and texts	Fairytales A Midsummer Night's Dream
	Overview	The intention of this theme is to complete an in-depth study of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, linking to their later study of Hamlet, Julius Ceasar, Macbeth and Othello. Students will complete character and language analysis with a focus on being able to cite specific textual evidence. Furthermore, students will need to use their creative skills to create fairy tale settings and perform to an audience. Students will then need to use this knowledge to explore fairy tales around the world and assess their relevance today.

	Reading	Students build on learning in KS2 and develop the following reading skills as part of this theme: Textual Analysis Close Reading Evidence Citation Understanding cultural contexts Creative Interpretation and Performance
	Writing	Students build on learning in KS2 and develop the following writing skills as part of this theme: Analytical Writing Creative Writing Persuasive and Evaluative Writing
	Spoken Language	Students build on learning in KS2 and develop the following spoken language skills as part of this theme: Performance and Dramatic Expression Group Discussion and Collaboration Listening and Responding
Spring	Core themes and texts	Journeys Canterbury Tales
	Overview	This intention of this theme is to enable students to consider a range of reasons as to why people undertake journeys, and the effects that embarking on these journeys may have on them, linking to their later study in the Y8 unit 'Adventure and Disaster'. We begin the theme by looking at the map skills that enable travellers successfully to get from one place to another. Building on these skills, students are able both to plan a journey and to write about a journey they have previously undertaken. The theme enables students to demonstrate their place knowledge of the Middle East, and the importance of this region to many of today's major world religions. Taking Christianity, Sikhism and Islam in turn, students explore religious pilgrimages that followers of these religions undertake, the reasons they take these journeys and what the lasting effects of these journeys may be. Students can contrast religious pilgrimages and poetry of today with those from the medieval period: have pilgrims' reasons for undertaking these journeys changed over the centuries?
	Reading	Students build on learning in KS2 and develop the following reading skills as part of this theme: Analytical Reading - theme and motif Comparative Reading
	Writing	Students build on learning in KS2 and develop the following writing skills as part of this theme: Creative Techniques Expository Writing
	Spoken Language	Students build on learning in KS2 and develop the following spoken language skills as part of this theme: Debate Group Communication Expressing Perspectives
Summer	Core themes and texts	Silent Movies
	Overview	The intention of this theme is to explore how perspectives in history and society are represented and communicated through the medium of film, notably the cultural phenomenon of the Silent Movie Industry. By celebrating the art of mime and slapstick comedy, students explore the origins of cinema, the lifestyles of influential people and technological advances that shaped attitudes throughout the early 20th century. Students use the biography of Charlie Chaplin to see how society was reflected in silent movies. Studies in drama, art, and music challenge students to prepare for their own Silent Movie Showcase where they will work collaboratively to invent, record, edit and present a silent movie in anticipation of an 'Oscars Ceremony'. Nominations will compete for prestigious awards to celebrate achievements as actors, directors, editors, advertisers, writers and historians.

		Students learn how to manipulate video editing software to interpret silent movie techniques and communicate their very own narrative.
	Reading	Students build on learning in KS2 and Y7 to develop the following reading skills as part of this theme: Historical Context Analysis Media Literacy
	Writing	Students build on learning in KS2 and Y7 to develop the following writing skills as part of this theme: Biographical Writing Script Writing Technical Writing - storyboards, director's notes, production schedules
	Spoken Language	Students build on learning in KS2 and Y7 to develop the following spoken language skills as part of this theme: Performance Public Speaking

Our curriculum is designed to harness the natural interplay between Music, English Language, and English Literature, cultivating a rich and dynamic learning experience that enables students to develop a deeper understanding of the human experience. By interweaving these disciplines, we aim to inspire creativity, enhance critical thinking, and empower students to express themselves with clarity and confidence.

At the heart of all three disciplines lies the need to communicate and connect with others. Whether through the written word, spoken language, or musical composition, students explore how ideas, emotions, and stories are shared across time, cultures, and mediums.