

English – Year 9

Curriculum Intent

In Year 9, English prepares students for the conceptual and writing demands of GCSE by developing more sophisticated reading, interpretation and crafted writing. The curriculum is sequenced to move students from whole-text study into poetry, then into narrative craft through dystopian fiction, before finishing with rhetoric and a modern play. Across the year, students strengthen their ability to form judgements, analyse methods and communicate ideas with control and confidence.

What Students Will Study Across the Year

Autumn Term – Human Nature and Society: *Lord of the Flies*

Students begin with a whole novel study exploring human behaviour, morality and leadership. They develop more confident essay writing, deepening their ability to analyse symbolism and writer’s “big ideas”. This unit strengthens independent interpretation and the ability to build an argument across a full text.

Autumn Term – Poetry (Part 1)

Students broaden their analysis skills through poetry, focusing on how writers craft meaning through language, structure and form. This develops confidence with close reading and interpretation, supporting future comparative and evaluative thinking.

Spring Term – Controlling the Narrative: Dystopian Fiction

Students apply and extend their learning by studying dystopian fiction and crafting their own narrative writing. They explore how writers control information, build intrigue and create atmosphere, while developing technical control over dialogue and sentence variation. This unit strengthens both analytical thinking and creative craft, preparing students for the reading and writing challenges of GCSE Language.

Spring Term – Poetry (Part 2)

Students return to poetry to deepen their interpretative confidence and strengthen analytical writing, building fluency with methods and meaning.

Summer Term – Rhetoric and Social Responsibility: Speeches and *An Inspector Calls*

Students finish Year 9 by exploring rhetoric, social justice and responsibility through powerful speechwriting and a modern play, *An Inspector Calls*. They examine how writers shape message and audience response, develop more confident argumentative writing, and practise sustained essay responses that bridge directly into GCSE expectations.

Assessment and Progression

Students are assessed through knowledge quizzes, analytical writing and crafted writing tasks (including drafted narrative work), alongside practice essays and discursive writing. By the end of Year 9, students are well prepared for GCSE English, with strong foundations in whole-text study, rhetoric, poetry analysis and controlled writing.