

English – GCSE Curriculum Overview (Years 10–11)

Curriculum Intent

At GCSE, students build on Key Stage 3 by developing confident, independent reading and writing across both English Literature and English Language. Across the two-year course, students study a range of texts and develop the ability to analyse methods, evaluate viewpoints and craft accurate, effective writing for different purposes and audiences. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to move from supported text study and writing development in Year 10 towards refined exam responses, stronger independent judgement and deliberate consolidation in Year 11 in preparation for final examinations.

What Students Will Study Across the Course

Year 10 – Literature Foundations and Building Writing Craft

Students develop core Literature knowledge and analysis through texts such as *A Christmas Carol* and *Macbeth*, strengthening their ability to write sustained, evidence-led responses. Alongside this, students study poetry (including war poetry) to build confidence with interpretation and method analysis. Throughout Year 10, students also strengthen writing for purpose, including discursive and opinion writing, developing control over argument, tone, structure and technical accuracy. Students begin focused preparation for Language assessment through developing creative and analytical responses, building towards the demands of Language Paper 1.

Year 11 – Applying Skills, Refining Responses and Exam Readiness

In Year 11, students apply and sharpen their skills across both Language and Literature. They revisit and strengthen preparation for Language Paper 1 and Language Paper 2 through targeted reading and writing practice, and they develop confidence responding to Literature papers through structured revision and exam-style practice. The course includes planned time to strengthen students' ability to write accurately and effectively under exam conditions, improving quality of analysis, clarity of argument and deliberate writing craft.

Spring Term, Year 11 – Consolidation and Preparation for Examinations

During the Spring term of Year 11, curriculum time is deliberately structured to consolidate knowledge and refine exam technique across both Language and Literature. Students revisit key texts and methods, practise applying skills to unseen material, strengthen planning and proofreading habits, and build confidence through targeted exam-style responses. This planned consolidation supports strong recall, improved performance and effective preparation for final GCSE examinations.

Assessment and Progression

Students are assessed through knowledge quizzes, extended written responses, crafted writing tasks and regular exam-style practice throughout the two-year course. All assessment builds towards linear examinations at the end of Year 11. By completion of GCSE English, students leave with strong analytical skills, confident written communication and the ability to evaluate ideas and viewpoints—preparing them for post-16 study and informed engagement with the world beyond school.