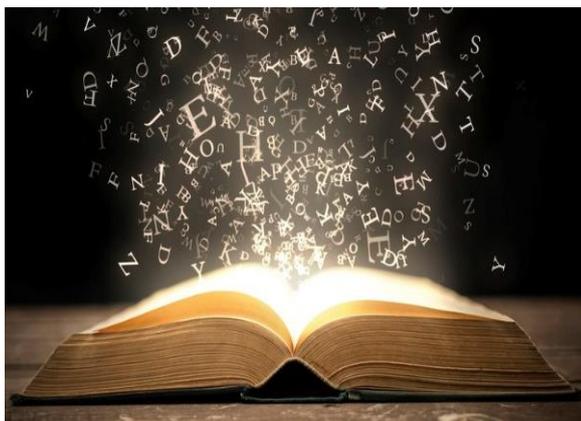


English Curriculum



English Department Statement of Intent

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us.” Romans 15:4



The English Department aims to fully equip students for life in the 21st Century. We will provide students with a broad and balanced curriculum. This will showcase the world's best literature, adding to the students' cultural capital and promoting a love of reading. Students will also learn how to process vast amounts of information, often from conflicting sources, so they can successfully navigate through the world. Students will be challenged and supported to achieve the best possible outcomes in their GCSEs.

Aims of the English Department

1. Students explore a wide range of literature to develop a knowledge, understanding and an appreciation for writing from different ages, genres, and cultures. Each text is chosen to encourage students to explore moral, spiritual, emotional, psychological, political, and societal issues in each text's own historical context and to apply this understanding to gain insights into the world around them.
2. Students' exploration of English Literature will aim to foster a love of reading. English teaching aims to: develop a sense of curiosity and excitement with the world of fiction; develop and sharpen critical thinking skills; refine students' understanding and appreciation for diverse reading experiences; as well as show students how reading can improve mental health, unleash creativity and be a source of comfort in our lives.
3. Teaching in English aims to prepare students for lifelong learning and success in the world of work. Essential skills are developed across a 5-year curriculum to enable all students to flourish in to high-achieving individuals who can face the challenges of the evolving workplace of the 21st Century. Students are provided with opportunities to undertake independent studies and communicate in a range of mediums to showcase their resilience and adaptability.
4. The teaching of English Language aims to open students' minds to ambiguities of meaning, building on functional literacy skills to develop an ability to be sophisticated in their crafting of the written word. Teaching aims to equip students with the skills and resilience to decode, understand, interpret, analyse, and evaluate a wide range of reading material from both fictive and non-fictive texts. Students are encouraged to apply their understanding of linguistic crafting to their own writing to demonstrate they too can be masters of language.



English Department Overview of Intent

Curriculum Intent – Year 7

By the end of Year 7 our students will be able to communicate some successful ideas in both verbal and written responses. Students will show some conscious use of vocabulary and demonstrate their ability to adapt their writing for audience and purpose mostly successfully. Learners will also develop their ability to write creatively and are encouraged to demonstrate a growing imagination inspired by their experiences. Our Y7 students will begin to develop a love of reading by exploring texts from a range of genres and time periods. They will know how to infer and analyse ideas from the texts they read, learning how to provide individual responses using relevant textual evidence to support their ideas. In their weekly literacy lessons, Y7 learners will begin to build functional literacy skills to enable effective decoding and comprehension of reading material; develop a wider resilience to work independently; and understand how to effectively communicate in real world situations.

Curriculum Intent – Year 8

By the end of Year 8 our students will be able to communicate relevant and linked ideas in both verbal and written responses. Students will consciously use more examples of extended vocabulary and show a clear understanding of how to adapt their writing to suit formality, audience, and purpose. Learners will develop their ability to write creatively, showing an emerging understanding of how to craft linguistic devices for effect. Our Y8 students will continue to develop a love of reading by exploring texts from a range of genres and time periods. They will confidently infer ideas from the texts they read and analyse language with more precision using relevant subject terminology. In their weekly literacy lessons, Y8 learners will continue to explore the origins of language to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of the English language and ambiguities of meaning.

Curriculum Intent – Year 9

By the end of Year 9 our students will be able to clearly communicate a variety of successful ideas more consistently across both written and verbal responses. Students will demonstrate a widening range of ambitious vocabulary used successfully for effect and confidently adapt their use of linguistic devices to suit a full range of written genres. Learners will clearly understand how to utilise literary conventions in their own creative writing and will do this consistently. Our Y9 students will gain a clear foundation of knowledge of chosen Literature texts, applying their learning from wider literature and their contexts in Y7 and Y8 to their understanding of these texts. Students will explore the main themes and issues presented in each of the texts and be able to clearly articulate their individual interpretations supported by a range of effective textual evidence and secure use of subject terminology.

Curriculum Intent – Year 10

By the end of Year 10 our students will be able to fluently communicate a range of convincing ideas in their verbal responses and written work. Students will be able to utilise broad and challenging vocabulary and demonstrate their ability to consistently craft linguistic devices. Our Y10 students will have a secure understanding of their GCSE Literature texts, providing a more developed appreciation for wider cultural, political, and societal issues in their personal interpretations of each text. Learners will be able to explore the wider themes of each text in a more detailed and exploratory manner.

Curriculum Intent – Year 11

By the end of Year 11 our students will be able to confidently articulate complex, mature ideas in both their written and verbal communication. Students will be able to utilise an extensive range of ambitious vocabulary and demonstrate their ability to craft linguistic devices in an inventive and self-assured manner. Our Y11 students will have a deep understanding of their GCSE Literature texts, applying their wider appreciation of the world to their interpretation of the texts. Learners will imaginatively explore the wider themes and issues of each text, providing conceptualised and perceptive responses.

SMSC in English



Spiritual Development:

Learning in English provides a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the many conflicting issues evident in society in a safe and nurturing environment. English teaching promotes the importance of mutual respect and empathy so students can understand how and why conflicts arise, learning how to respect the differing views of others, empathising with perspectives and situations different to their own. Students are encouraged to explore philosophical ideas and are challenged to explore all avenues to widen their understanding of the diverse world around them.

Moral Development:

Studies in English challenge our students to explore many ethical and moral issues from both historical and modern society. Teaching aims to remove the stigma surrounding the discussion of sometimes controversial topics allowing students to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. From mental health issues to racial injustice, hypocrisy and corruption to gender discrimination, students' moral development is an integral part of their English studies to ensure they not only understand the big ideas presented in the texts they study, but also so they are equipped with the necessary moral skills for life in the ever-evolving wider world.

Social Development:

Our society is constantly changing and in so many ways. Our students therefore need to understand not only how and why these changes have happened but are also well equipped to make their own changes in the future world they will live in. Students must consider how their choices and behaviour can and will impact on the world around them. In their English studies, students begin to explore aspects of human nature and how an individual's behaviour can be constructive or catastrophic depending on the choices they make. Teaching in English encourages students to evaluate the consequences of one's actions, providing opportunities to explore big ideas and questions that require them to apply their understanding of social issues.

Cultural Development:

Students are provided with many opportunities to explore the cultural diversity of the world we live in as part of their English studies. All students will understand that every text they study has a cultural and historical context; their understanding of this is imperative to fully exploring the wider moral, social, and political ideas presented by its writer. Throughout the curriculum, students are introduced to texts from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds to ensure students develop an appreciation for how our complex language and the world's rich literary canon has been influenced by so many diverse sources.

Examples of how SMSC is taught in more detail is evidenced on our long-term curriculum plans.

Gospel Values in English:

As a Catholic school, our values are rooted in the Gospel message and we develop the values in every one of our students. Some examples of where Gospel Values are integrated in to teaching and learning are listed below:

Gospel Value	Location in Department Teaching
Faithfulness and Integrity	Shakespeare Study 19 th Century Fiction, Unseen Poetry
Dignity and Compassion	Dickens Study, Writing for an Audience Lord of the Flies, Unseen Poetry
Humility and Gentleness	Shakespeare Study Writing to Express a Viewpoint, Unseen Poetry
Truth and Justice	19 th Century Literature, Studies of Black History Shakespeare's Macbeth, Freedom of Speech
Forgiveness and Mercy	Blood Brothers, Dystopian Fiction Modern Drama, Discrimination study
Purity and Holiness	Gothic Fiction 19 th Century Fiction, Shakespeare's Macbeth
Tolerance and Peace	Different Cultures Poetry, Noughts and Crosses Lord of the Flies, The Power of Words
Service and Sacrifice	Myths and Legends, Titanic, Conflict Poetry Conflict Poetry, 19 th Century Fiction

Reading

Key issues

- Strategies to help reading for understanding
- Retrieval
- Summarising and synthesis
- Decoding and comprehension

Common difficulties

- ❑ Students often cannot relate to different texts from a variety of genres used in school in terms of language and style.
- ❑ Children often prefer fiction to non-fiction texts.
- ❑ Children prefer to use interactive methods of discovering information e.g. Internet.
- ❑ Limited range of text that can be offered to students.
- ❑ Weak readers can lack the ability to scan and skim read. Many students lack reading stamina and fluency.
- ❑ Students prefer to copy chunks of text instead of synthesising information to aid understanding.

Some Supporting Strategies

- ❑ Develop activities to promote meaningful reading experiences. Utilise Reciprocal Reading approaches to develop 'good' reading skills that can be applied across all subject areas.
- ❑ Activities associated with reading to make the data processing easier e.g. DARTS, cloze procedure, sequencing, and summarising.
- ❑ Activities following reading to ensure effective comprehension of information.
- ❑ Regular opportunities to revisit material read to secure comprehension and aid retention of information.

Writing

Key issues

- Correct spelling and using a full range of punctuation accurately
- Follow grammatical conventions with accuracy
- Organise work in a logical and coherent form
- Adapting writing to suit formality, audience, and purpose

Common difficulties

- ❑ Many students are reluctant writers.
- ❑ Poor handwriting and spelling can make writing difficult to interpret.
- ❑ Lack of understanding what they are being asked to write about.
- ❑ Time pressure in lessons to get ideas or work down onto paper.
- ❑ Students lack the stamina to write at length. Lack of time planned into lessons across a range of subjects can prevent students from acquiring this skill.

Some Supporting Strategies

- ❑ Students given regular opportunities to write for a full range of genres and modes.
- ❑ Students read a full range of genres, using their understanding of generic conventions in their own writing.
- ❑ Use writing frames where appropriate, encouraging children to use it as a guideline and eventually manage without.
- ❑ Opportunities for extended writing including drafting, redrafting and consolidation using teacher feedback.
- ❑ Teach students how to summarise text and develop effective note taking skills.
- ❑ When asking students to write analysis and evaluations teach them the specialist vocabulary and phrases needed.
- ❑ Regular opportunities to utilise a full range of sentence forms and punctuation, using scaffolding to develop skills and building to independent use.
- ❑ Low stakes quizzes to improve retention of how to use more complex punctuation such as semi colons. Regular opportunities to practise these skills within lessons.
- ❑ Classroom displays and lesson content to provide students with visual cues of how to use effective discourse markers and write like a literary expert.

English and SEND



As reflected in our school Mission Statement and Curriculum Intent, every student at St Joseph's is recognised as having individual skills and talents which are equally important and valued. The English Department is therefore committed to responding to every individual's special educational needs at any stage of their learning journey to ensure every student is given the very best opportunities to flourish and feels fully included and supported.

Achievement with care is our vision for all our students here at St Joseph's. As an English Department, our curriculum planning, teaching and learning strategies and extra-curricular provision aims to ensure all students with learning difficulties are able to access their entitlement to a broad, balanced and enriching school experience. Students with SEND are educated, wherever possible, in an inclusive environment alongside their peers to enable each student to reach their full potential.

Our curriculum and environment is adapted for students including those with additional needs. Subject teachers are responsible for the progress of all students in their lessons. Highly experienced staff within the department differentiate teaching and learning strategies to meet the needs of each diverse learner and we match levels of additional support to an individual's educational needs. Staff are trained to teach children with all types of additional learning requirements and are responsible for making the curriculum accessible to all students. This can mean teachers plan visual, auditory or kinaesthetic activities to engage students and make learning accessible. Teacher may also organise small group or 1-1 learning with a member of the learning support team. Alternative tasks for home learning may also be utilised, and staff may liaise with parents to help support students who may need pre-teaching of content, vocabulary or over-learning of certain topics. A wide range of teaching strategies and resources are used to support SEND students within the department, these range from laminated and/or enlarged resources to allow easy access to material, coloured overlays for reading, scaffolded activities and model answers, text based help sheets on coloured paper, and video help resources with subtitles. Staff design seating plans strategically with SEND children seated as priority. For example, visual/hearing impaired children will be seated toward the front of the classroom; seating positions will be chosen to ensure SEND students can access support from their teacher or a teaching assistant easily. The students selected to sit either side of the SEND student are typically chosen as a learning buddy to ensure they feel safe and confident in the classroom.

Students with SEND are assessed by the learning support team early in their school career, but these students are also assessed regularly within our subject, along with their peers, to ensure teachers can continue to provide the best provision for each learner and an accurate picture of their progress can be established. Parents, carers and students are fully involved in the identification and assessment of SEND; we strive for close co-operation between all agencies concerned, using a multi-disciplinary approach. Staff within the department work closely with the learning support team within school to ensure each student feels fully supported in every lesson, but also to ensure each individual has the opportunities to develop skills independently when they feel confident to do so. Students with access arrangements are supported in their completion of assessed pieces both in the classroom and in formal assessments. If appropriate for their needs, students can benefit from extra time to allow for processing, use of a laptop in lessons, a reader or a scribe. These arrangements form part of everyday learning for students to ensure this is their normal way of working in school and not just part of the formal assessment process.

Assessment in English informs not only teaching practice and curriculum improvements, but also groupings of students. Students with SEND are grouped based on a holistic picture of their progress and ability to ensure their learning experience is just as challenging and enriching as their peers. Learners with educational needs are fully integrated in to mainstream groups along with their peers; alternative provision is only sought when this is deemed appropriate by the learning support team. SEND students also have equal access to departmental support and intervention programmes to ensure any gaps in their progress are addressed and each student has the opportunities to develop the essential skills needed for life beyond the classroom.



English Structure

As practitioners of one of the most pivotal faculties in the school, the English department are highly dedicated professionals who are passionate about the subject they teach. The English team includes many specialised staff who are experienced examiners from both English Language and Literature specifications which allows us to offer the very best provision to our students. English lessons aim to promote active learning whilst affording students the opportunities to become independent and resilient, skills essential for success in the English GCSE examinations and the wider world. As a team, we continue to strive for new, innovative ways to inspire our students, so they have the confidence and skills necessary to flourish into high achieving individuals. Not only does the curriculum explore the fascinating world of Literature and the ambiguities of Language, but also provides students with opportunities to explore and respond to real world issues that impact on societies past and present.

Staffing Structure

Head of English – Mrs C Wood

Assistant Head of English – Miss C Malone

TA4 for English – Miss V Ball

Teachers of English:

Miss L Prunty

Mrs E Weall

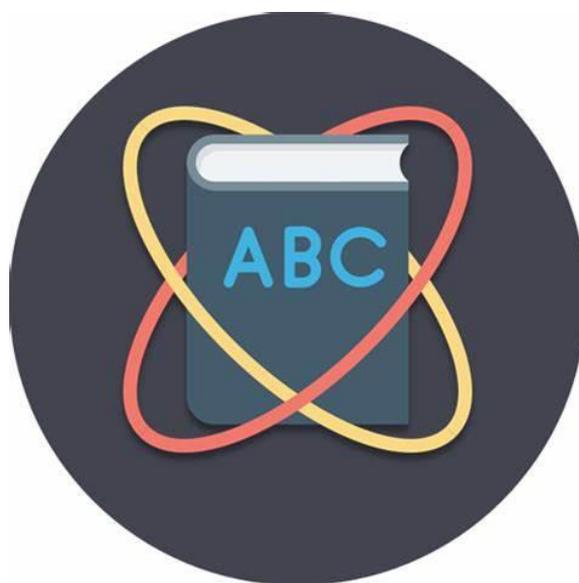
Miss L Cross

Mr R Minns

Mrs N Clarke

Mrs H Howe

Miss B Morton



Curriculum Structure

Students in lower school follow a programme of study which aligns to the National Curriculum for English and is underpinned by the AQA English Language and Literature specifications. Our schemes of learning aim to develop students' creativity, foster a love of literature as well as gain the necessary language skills they need to understand, analyse, evaluate, and respond to a wide range of reading material. Each unit of work is carefully crafted to provide enthusing opportunities to develop specific skills, offering appropriate stretch and challenge to refine and master these areas as students progress through lower school.

In upper school, students study English from the AQA suite of GCSE qualifications. Students will study both English Language and English Literature specifications.

Subject content for English Language:

Explorations in creative reading and writing

Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Spoken Language (non-exam assessment)

Subject content for English Literature:

Shakespeare study

19th Century Novel

Modern Prose or Drama

Poetry (anthology and unseen)

(More information about the structure of the English curriculum is evident in our long-term curriculum plans for each year group.)



The English Consolidation Curriculum and Covid-19



The curriculum at St Joseph's has been impacted by Covid-19 and therefore whole school and departmental adjustments have been required to best support the learning and wellbeing of all our students. The English Department has adapted the curriculum from September 2020 and beyond to enable our specialist staff to

prioritise certain areas of the curriculum for home-learning and others for face-to-face teaching. Adjustments to the English curriculum included resequencing programmes of study, increased skills/knowledge checks allowing for additional formative assessments to identify gaps in students' learning, scheduling further opportunities for the consolidation of content and skills where gaps have been identified.

Remote-learning was an adaptive process as staff and students became more familiar with online-learning. As a team, the English Department carefully selected the most appropriate curriculum areas to be delivered remotely and subsequently designed plans for addressing gaps identified to ensure that face-to-face learning was maximised when students returned to school. Regular formative assessment points were used during periods of home learning so that students' progress continued to be monitored and informed next steps for teaching and learning. Consolidation was a main focus of the curriculum upon returning to face-to-face teaching as was promoting positivity and re-establishing learning routines. Interventions have been launched for individuals and small groups when this was identified as a priority to ensure students were fully supported in their learning.

To ensure our students receive the very best opportunities for intervention and consolidation, the English Curriculum is prioritising strategies that will narrow skills gaps in reading, writing, including spelling, punctuation, grammar and vocabulary. Baseline assessments, together with CATs testing, will help to inform intervention strategies that aim to narrow the learning gaps of Year 7 students whose education has been disrupted at Key Stage 2. Regular assessment points scheduled throughout each academic year will also inform departmental intervention approaches for students in all year groups; data will be collected regularly, and carefully planned strategies will be deployed to ensure gaps are effectively diagnosed and addressed.

Schemes of Learning and lessons will continue to be adapted to ensure thorough re-teaching of curriculum areas when needed. As a priority, staff will continue to nurture and monitor students' reading, including reading aloud and guided reading as a class, giving them time to read independently where their reading is secure, but also providing programmes of support where this is an area of weakness. Introducing the Accelerated Reader Programme and newly designed Literacy Lessons will enable this.

The department will also encourage students to engage in rich discussions about their learning that facilitates the sharing of ideas, knowledge and experiences. Planning regular opportunities to consolidate skills will encourage further mastery, and carefully selected class readers provide ample opportunities for teachers to engage our young people in reading rich and challenging texts, model fluent reading and initiate active discussions to develop essential oracy skills.

How do I achieve success in English?

Step/ Grade Descriptors		Reading Skills	Writing Skills
Step 12	Detailed, Impressive, Inventive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects range of well-chosen quotations to support detailed analysis Sophisticated and accurate use of subject terminology, seamlessly integrated Analysis of language is detailed and imaginative Alternative viewpoints are considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex, mature ideas, confidently presented Use an extensive range of ambitious vocabulary Impressive use of characters, plot and setting Inventive use of structure Sustained and inventive crafting of devices throughout
Step 11	More developed, convincing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-chosen quotations used to support analysis Consistently accurate use of subject terminology, well integrated Analysis of language is more developed but is not always detailed Alternative viewpoints are sometimes considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of convincing ideas, fluently linked Broad and challenging use of vocabulary Convincing use of characters, plot and setting Convincing use of structure Conscious crafting of devices throughout
Step 10	Clear, relevant, effective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects a range of relevant quotations to support explanations Clear and accurate use of subject terminology, mostly well integrated Clear explanations of language, clearly understands the intended impact on the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of connected, effective ideas Effective use of sophisticated vocabulary Characters, plot and setting are consistently well controlled across the piece of writing Effective use of structure Increasing use of sophisticated devices used throughout
Step 8 and 9	Mostly clear, appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects a variety of relevant quotations to support explanations Clear and mostly accurate use of subject terminology Clear explanations of language/mostly explains the impact on the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear range of ideas, more developed Vocabulary clearly chosen for effect Clear control of characters, plot and setting Clear, logical structure Appropriate use of devices
Step 6 and 7	Some success.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects some appropriate quotations to support comments Some use of subject terminology, mainly appropriately but some mistakes. Some comment on language, but comments lack clarity and are not fully explained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some linked and relevant ideas Some conscious use of vocabulary Some successful characters, plot and setting Some control over structure and pace Some conscious use of devices but sometimes overused
Step 4 and 5	Attempts, straightforward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects quotations to support comments, not always appropriate Use of subject terminology, but some mistakes. May sometimes be randomly stated, makes response disjointed. Attempts to comment on language, but comments are unexplained and narrow in focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas often predictable and underdeveloped Attempts to vary vocabulary Straightforward characters, plot and setting Attempts to use structural features Attempts to vary devices, most devices are straightforward
Step 3	Simple.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects simple references, often paraphrasing. May copy larger quotations. Simple use of subject terminology if any. Not always used appropriately. Offers simple comments on language, refers to basic literal meanings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or two relevant ideas, simply linked and lacking detail Simple use of vocabulary Simple characters, plot and setting Simple structure Simple use of devices
Step 1 and 2	Limited, basic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited use of textual references if any. Paraphrasing more frequent. Limited use of subject terminology if any Limited comments made on language if any. May just paraphrase the basic meaning of the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unrelated, random details, ideas often unlinked Basic, limited vocabulary Very basic sense of characters, plot and setting Very basic, rushed pace Limited use of devices, if any

Assessment Principles

Year 7 begins our 5-year spiral curriculum. The scheme of learning and lesson outcomes are within the relevant areas on the shared drive. There are 7 key assessment objectives which are covered and revisited across the first two years at St Joseph's. Teaching of these skills focus on first building a foundation of understanding and a functional skill level before moving to further development and eventual mastery. This will ensure students progress through the curriculum each year. The path to progression through both reading and writing assessment objectives is set out in the progression scales; these should be used alongside curriculum planning. Scheduled teaching of texts/topic and assessment deadlines can also be found in the shared curriculum area.

Year 9 acts as a bridging year. The autumn term allows students to continue to develop more complex skills learned in Year 7 and 8 in preparation for the start of their AQA GCSE studies later in the year. This allows a broad and balanced curriculum to be delivered in Year 7 and Year 8 as well as providing students with the time to explore both English Language and Literature topics in the necessary breadth and depth. Year 10 and 11 will be taught both Language skills and Literature content alongside each other in a layered approach. Throughout GCSE studies, students complete exploration of topics at different levels: foundation (plot, character, themes); developed (focussed exploration of key ideas); mastery (deep knowledge and understanding across the whole text with application to wider issues). For the specifications of both English Language and English Literature, schemes of learning are within the relevant areas of the shared drive. Within these areas are teaching resources and materials. Progression scales also support the tracking of skills and content through both GCSE specifications. Teaching order and unit deadlines can also be found in the shared curriculum area.

Class books will contain all notes from lessons and examples of homework (unless this has been submitted electronically). Exercise books should have a front cover, progress tracker and progression scales at appropriate points depending on the year group and topics. Class books should predominantly use peer and self-assessment as a method of marking with student responses to this marking when appropriate. Teacher book reviews should be completed regularly to ensure any misconceptions/errors are corrected and that sufficient progress through a unit has occurred. Opportunities for consolidation based upon feedback should be scheduled after end of unit assessments to allow for effective reflection and evaluation of progress.

Formal assessment in Year 7 and Year 8 will be evidenced in class books. Assessment files from Year 9 onwards will support the tracking of student progress through their studies. Assessments will evidence students' progress through the skills-based progression scales. Teacher marking should be used to assess the pieces of work using the progression scales to provide a constructive next step for the student, which should be responded to using purple pen. The results of all assessments should be detailed on the tracker document in a student's exercise book, therefore indicating their area(s) for development. Assessments in English should be supported by Question Level Analysis conducted by the relevant curriculum leader within the department. Results from the QLA will stored centrally and will be used to inform future planning and intervention. All class books should be marked in line with the school impact marking policy.

Forming Judgements for Data Drops: All judgement should be skills based using the progression scales (not grades) in Year 7 and Year 8. When judgements are to be formed for reporting purposes, a holistic approach should be used considering each student's learning journey. This should include all evidence from assessments, class work, homework, and attitude to learning.

Enrichment and Extra-Curricular

The English department offers weekly enrichment during P6 as well as other activities, trips, and visits as they arise from external providers. Enrichment activities are often changed year upon year according to interest and demand.

Current extra-curricular activities on offer include:

- Cakes and Classics
- Literature Lovers Club
- Big Book Quiz
- Creative Writing Club
- Journalism Club/School Newspaper
- Reluctant Readers
- Language Investigators
- Games Galore

Extra-curricular visits include:

- Acting companies visit to school to perform versions of key GCSE texts
- Theatre visits
- Rewards Trips
- Big Book Quiz competition (if participating teams qualify)