

KS3 Long Term Curriculum Plan: English/Year 8 2026-2027

Curriculum Aim: The Chace English curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language. Our text choices enable our students to appreciate our rich and diverse literary heritage and have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually and socially. We also aim to empower pupils to write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences. The curriculum encourages the use of discussion in order to learn so pupils should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas. It ensures that they are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

Link to prior learning: The Year 8 curriculum builds on the skills developed during the year 7 curriculum by exposing students to a range of different forms of literature and nonfiction reading and writing.

Rationale of sequencing: We teach a spiral curriculum that ensures that we consistently revisit the key strands of the curriculum in order to consolidate and develop students' skills in prose, plays, poetry, nonfiction and spoken language. The texts chosen for study become more challenging in language, structure and content as the curriculum progresses.

	Focus / Topic	Knowledge & Skills (from NC/Programmes of Study)	Assessment
Autumn 1	CORE LESSONS Reading Fiction: Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes	Pupils will: - develop their understanding of cultural diversity by studying an author and novel that explores social injustice. - develop their ability to make inferences and refer to evidence in the text - develop understanding of how text structure and organisational features, presents meaning - study setting, plot, and characterisation, and the effects of these in creating meaning.	Reading Assessment Whole text thematic question
	LANGUAGE LESSONS Exploring YA Fiction: Opening Chapters	Pupils will: - explore how writers use structure to engage readers - be able to write analytically about the start of a novel in reference to character, setting, structure and foreshadowing - explore how to source and select new material to read for pleasure	
Autumn 2	CORE LESSONS Creative Writing & Spoken English: Monologue	Pupils will: - Further develop their ability to write imaginatively for an audience through the study and production of dramatic monologues. - apply their growing knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and text structure to their writing - rehearse the performance of a monologue in order to create meaning, using role, intonation, tone, volume, mood and action to add impact.	Spoken assessment Write and deliver a monologue
	LANGUAGE LESSONS Extraordinary Lives: Non-fiction writing	Pupils will: - Develop skills required in order to identify writer's perspectives - Explore how writers present different aspects of conflict - Understand how to support ideas with relevant quotations	Unseen Fiction - reading and writing assessment

Spring 1	CORE LESSONS Poetry: Poetry of War	Pupils will: - develop their knowledge of how social and historical context is drawn upon to support understanding of literature - practice recognising a range of poetic conventions and understanding how these have been used to create meaning - Start to explore pre-1900 writing - make critical comparisons across texts	Reading Assessment Comparative essay
	LANGUAGE LESSONS Narratives of War: Non-Fiction Reading & Writing	Pupils will: - practise comprehension skills (retrieval/summary/inference) - understand how to recognise the viewpoints in non-fiction texts - develop an understanding vocabulary related to conflict - develop their contextual understanding of historical conflicts and how autobiographical writing presents these conflicts	
Spring 2	CORE LESSONS Political Writing: Persuasive Speeches	Pupils will: - develop their ability to write accurately and fluently for a range of purposes by studying and producing non-fiction writing on the theme of war - learn to write well-structured arguments, supporting ideas with any necessary factual detail - draw on their knowledge of rhetorical devices from their reading and listening to enhance the impact of their writing	Writing assessment Crisis Speech
	LANGUAGE LESSONS Dystopian Fiction	Pupils will: - be able to recognise the conventions of the dystopian fiction genre - practise applying the features of genre to their writing - develop editing skills - develop their understanding of how to select vocabulary choices for effect	Unseen Non-Fiction Reading and Writing
Summer 1	CORE LESSONS A Midsummer Night's Dream	Pupils will: - develop their understanding of how plot and character is developed through Shakespearean language - explore the impact of Shakespeare on the literary heritage - understand how alternative staging allows for different interpretations of a play	Reading Assessment Extract based
	LANGUAGE LESSONS Writing Fairy Tales	Pupils will: - develop their understanding of the conventions of Fairy Tales - explore characterisation, setting and narrative structure - write creatively in order to demonstrate understanding of genre conventions	

Summer 2	CORE LESSONS Reading For Pleasure: Stone Cold by R. Swindells.	Pupils will: - be encouraged to develop their love of reading through the study of a whole text and second author of the year. - develop their social and emotional understanding through the study of increasingly challenging themes linked to social injustice. - develop their critical reading skills by knowing how language, structure and organisational features, presents meaning	
	LANGUAGE LESSONS Key Skill Revision Non-Fiction thematic writing - Stone Cold	Pupils will: - revise key language methods and terminology related to English language skills - Practise utilising the skills required to respond to unseen material in the end of year assessments - Consolidate their understanding of key vocabulary related to Stone Cold - Write accurately to express a viewpoint - Explore and apply the features of the letter form	End of Year Assessment Unseen Fiction - Reading and writing

Further Information

Further Information

Key Stage 3 Curriculum https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244215/SECONDARY_national_curriculum_-_English2.pdf

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