



Curriculum Newsletter

ENGLISH

English has a pre-eminent place in education and society; it is a subject fundamental to personal and intellectual growth. The study of English ensures students become confident readers and writers. It also encourages students to think creatively, critically, and independently so that they can articulate their ideas with clarity and confidence in a range of ways. The study of English prepares and equips students to understand and thrive in the world around them.

Curriculum intent

At Hermitage Academy, we believe that students deserve a rich, broad, and ambitious English curriculum which equips them for their future. We combine the key knowledge and skills of reading, writing and oracy throughout their years with us to create confident and capable learners. Through carefully planned topics which progress in challenge and depth, we aim to inspire a love of Language and Literature that will last a lifetime. English at Hermitage Academy is an immersive experience, exposing students to classics such as Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and Orwell's *Animal Farm*, to the more modern works of Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers* and the poetry of Maya Angelou. Students study a rich and challenging curriculum. From engaging with ideas from a wide variety of texts to opportunities for self-expression and creativity, in both spoken and written contexts. Studying English nurtures self-expression and reflective thought. Throughout the key stages, students will encounter a range of literary genres and forms, ranging from Jacobean drama and courtly love poetry to a whole host of non-fiction diaries, essays, letters and autobiographies. We take a cross-curricular approach, encouraging students to think about the social, political and historical contexts alongside developing their own voice. As well as following the curriculum, students will be

encouraged to read for pleasure, experiencing a diverse range of literature as a platform for exploring new ideas, developing critical thinking skills and learning more about the world around them. Students will be inspired by great thinkers such as activist Martin Luther King, environmentalist Greta Thunberg and suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

During Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9), the curriculum looks to build on the foundations of KS2 reading, writing and oracy. As well as reading with ease and fluency, we build depth in terms of reading for meaning in a range of texts. The students explore 'Moments in History', in both fictional and non-fictional texts, explore the Gothic genre and read three Shakespearian plays. We continue to instil rigorous written practices with explicit literacy teaching and expanding the students' knowledge of transactional writing. Expanding vocabulary remains a priority, as students move through the key stage, with linguistic terminology being added to the students' personal vocabulary and challenge embedded throughout. In terms of oracy, students engage in discussion, learn the rules of debate and make formal presentations - they are encouraged to 'Say it out Loud'.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Throughout Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), the curriculum delivers a high-quality education in English language and literature which continues to expand the students' ability to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, students have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally,

intellectually, socially, and spiritually. Literature, in particular, plays a key role in such development. We study *Macbeth*, *An Inspector Calls*, poetry of Power and Conflict as well as *A Christmas Carol* in full. We encourage students to read in-depth and independently around the texts, so that they expand their knowledge of the literary heritage and key concepts and ideas that only great literature can occasion. As the students move through the long-term plan, recall and revision is encouraged through a purposefully designed active recall plan which supports students to know more and remember more. The year begins with literacy essentials and then along the way we revisit the main topics from the previous units. This is complemented by a carefully designed homework plan which focuses on revision of each topic as we move onto the next.

We study the AQA GCSE courses.

Key Stage 5 English Language Curriculum

Students are encouraged to develop their knowledge of real world written, spoken and multi-modal texts. Opportunities are designed to hone critical analysis skills and evaluate data from a plethora of places, whilst also providing the platform to sharpen up creative writing and research skills. With exciting text- and data-based sources of language, the course develops the study of English in its various forms and contexts; with the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis of language underpinning all elements. Offering clear knowledge/skills progression from GCSE, we support students to build on the skills already gained and prepare for their next steps. The variety of assessment styles used, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a wide range of skills. These include critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and several different writing skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

Key Stage 5 English Literature Curriculum

A Level English Literature introduces students to a new depth in terms of textual analysis. We have selected relevant, engaging and up-to-date texts which act as a catalyst for the study of literature through the lens of historicism. This unifying approach facilitates the inclusion of a range of wider reading, thus extending students' experiences and appreciation of literature. Offering clear progression from GCSE, our long-term plan allows students to build on the skills and knowledge already gained and be confident in their next academic steps. The variety of assessment styles used, such as passage-based questions, unseen material, single-text questions, multiple-text questions, open and closed-book approaches allows students to develop a wide range of skills, such as the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research which are valuable for both further study and future employment. The abundance of choice allowed to us through our chosen specification, permits us to build on the students' knowledge progression through Key Stage 3 and 4: exploring and evaluating the literature of World War 1, delving into works that detail concept about Love through the Ages and adding true depth to their understanding of seminal Shakespearian works.

Studying English can open doors ...

English is a great platform for a lot of rewarding careers, it is a keystone subject respected by universities and employers alike.

Journalism: your Non-Fiction Reading and Writing studies could help you succeed in a career in journalism.

Social Worker: your English studies will equip you with the social and emotional skills needed to be a successful Care or Social Worker.

Teacher: a qualification in English will enable you to enter the teaching profession and equip you with the social skills needed for the job.

TV Producer: a degree in English could help you become a successful TV Producer, your work can help you to understand stories, and what makes them successful!

Actor: your studies in English will help you understand characters and assist you with honing your acting skills.