



Year 7

Department of English

OVERVIEW

In English, our aim is to provide an enriching and inspiring curriculum that will encourage your daughter to be a life-long lover of the spoken and written word. Year 7 is an opportunity for your daughter to settle in and to experience a range of literary and linguistic genres that will whet her appetite for deeper study as she progress up the school.

Skills Developed

A variety of reading, written and speaking and listening skills are developed. Specific techniques such as analysis of the writer's craft and evaluation of the methods and techniques employed are covered, in addition to specific writing skills including using a wider variety of sentence types and punctuation for effect, and an increasingly sophisticated repertoire of vocabulary within their own work. The use of dictionaries, ICT and the drafting process are all actively encouraged. Speaking and listening skills are also an integral part of the course and the skills taught here are designed to boost confidence. Formal grammar work is also a priority and includes polishing the skills of applying basic punctuation, the development of paragraphing and the use of tenses in writing.

Topics covered

In Year 7, pupils read a range of literature, including a challenging novel, a classic text adapted into a play, a Shakespeare comedy, myths and legends from different cultures and a wide variety of poetry. Autobiography is also explored and students are introduced to aspects of non-fiction writing including ideas surrounding perspectives and bias. All Year 7 pupils complete a library induction course and follow a programme of independent reading to support their development. Students will also complete a speaking and listening task, centred around telling a story.

How we assess your daughter's progress

Reading and writing skills are assessed continually throughout Key Stage 3 against the Nonsuch criteria. After each unit of study, your daughter will be formally assessed on the topic and key skills developed. Assessment tasks vary depending on the unit of study; an outline of the requirements can be found on your daughter's programme of study in the front of her exercise book. Your daughter will also engage with tasks such as spelling tests, quizzes and various reading and writing activities.

How we support and develop your daughter

Your daughter will receive regular feedback, both written and verbal, from her English teacher. All written feedback is designed to include a positive comment about what she is doing well (WWW) as well as a 'next step' (NS) which will offer her practical and individual advice on how to develop her skills further.

If your daughter is identified as requiring further support, we offer an English Enrichment Club fortnightly at lunchtimes where she can receive extra help from English teachers and sixth form English students. We also run clubs such as 'The Wordsmiths' creative writing group to develop students' enthusiasm further. In addition, all English teachers and the school librarian can support your daughter in finding challenging and enjoyable reading material which she can enjoy in her spare time.

How you can help your daughter

Encourage your daughter to read regularly and to select a range of reading material, including newspapers and other non-fiction pieces, as well as recommendations from the Year 7 Reading List and the '13 by 13 reading challenge' booklet. Watching the news, listening to radio discussion programmes and dramatisations of texts will also be helpful. Making sure that she has access to a good dictionary and thesaurus to use when completing homework and revision tasks will be incredibly helpful as well as reminding her to act upon the specific developmental advice she is given when her work is marked.

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