

Curriculum Intent

Teachers in the English department summarise their intentions in teaching English as to 'inspire students to listen to the world and to find their own voice.' More specifically, we aim:

- To inspire in pupils a life-long love of reading and writing
- To support all students to read and write confidently and fluently
- To engage students in the cultural and political debates that studying literature and language inspires
- To encourage the uptake of English Literature, English Language and Literature, Film Studies, and Media Studies A level courses

As well as encouraging enjoyment of the subject, we intend to equip students with the confidence, necessary skills and conceptual understanding to be highly successful students of English. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum aims to be rich, diverse and challenging, while offering *all* students access to it. At Key Stage 4, students prepare for GCSE examinations in English Literature and in English Language, the content for which is taught through Years 10 and 11 with units of work on each of the core texts for the Literature GCSE and units on the key skills needed for the Language GCSE and creative writing. At Key Stage 5, the A-level English Literature and A-level English Language and Literature courses enjoy impressive uptake by students in the Sixth Form. Students on these courses study a wide range of texts and complete a non-exam assessment component, which is often an opportunity to explore more contemporary texts.

Through all the teaching of English at Fortismere, we recognise the importance of discussion in the classroom and aim to promote student talk and the expression of ideas in lessons. We aim not to reduce teaching writing to coded acronyms, but rather encourage students to express themselves confidently and to trust that they have something important to say about literature and language to combat the anxiety of not knowing what to say or in what form to say it and the habit of wanting to know 'the answer'. Reading and writing skills are returned to and refined over Key Stages 4 and 5. We encourage flexible thinking and treat English as a subject discipline with skills and concepts that can be taught through studying literature and language, rather than as a bank of knowledge that should be memorised. Assessments in line with the whole-school assessment policy are essential to how we monitor students' understanding of language and literature and track their continued progress. We make adaptations to our units of work depending on findings informed by assessments to make sure all students have understood content and are developing and honing their skills in English. In teaching English at KS3 and KS4, we aim to nurture future students of English at Key Stage 5 and university level.

Parents and carers can help children progress in English by encouraging them to read for pleasure every day and by discussing their reading with them. You can use the links and recommendations given in the 'resources/support at home' column of the curriculum map to enrich their study of English and to help them engage with what is being taught at school. These additional resources complement what your children study in lessons and provide an excellent starting point to stretch and challenge students.

Yr7 (KS3)	Topic Area	Knowledge/Skills that are taught	Resources/support at home
Autumn	Introduction to poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introduction to poetic form and different styles of poetry -Students produce own poetry anthology <p>Concepts - Form & Structure; Voice Skills - Composition; Interpretation</p>	<p>Read poetry books (library)</p> <p>Kids' Poems and Stories with Michael Rosen: https://www.youtube.com/user/artificedesign/videos</p> <p>Watch YouTube videos of spoken word poetry</p> <p>BBC Bitesize poetry revision https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zmbj382</p>
Autumn	Literary shorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Short story unit using EMC anthology -Students introduced to variety of prose styles and narrative devices <p>Concepts - Voice; Narrative; Characterisation Skills - Interpretation; Composition</p>	<p>Reading to a carer, parent or family member. Telling stories to each other at home.</p> <p>Use story prompts to inspire writing: https://www.thestorystarter.com/</p> <p>Read great literature online: http://www.bibliomania.com</p> <p>There are some interesting materials to inspire writing and discussion around telling stories on the Literacy Shed website: https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html</p> <p>BBC creative and narrative writing revision: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwjsyrd/revison/2</p>
Spring	London and our migration stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Anthology of texts (non-fiction, poetry, prose, plays) -Students appreciate range of modes and forms of personal expression <p>Concepts - Narrative; Setting; Context;</p>	<p>Visit the Migration Museum https://www.migrationmuseum.org/</p> <p>Wider reading</p>

		Skills - Argument; Presentation	https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/migration_education_pack.pdf Reading non-fiction texts (like newspapers) at home with a parent or carer. Practising skim reading a text to quickly ascertain the main idea and scanning a text to find a specific piece of information. Watch migration stories on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=uk+migration+stories+ks3
Summer 1	Shakespeare's villains	Introduction to well-known villains in Shakespeare's plays -Concept of villain problematised and students create own villain character Concepts - Characterisation; Stagecraft Skills - Recreative writing; Comparison	Watch Royal Shakespeare Company performance clips: https://www.rsc.org.uk/at-home-with-shakespeare Watch a live performance of a Shakespeare play.
Summer 2	Power of advertising and the media	-Introduction to the language of advertising and -Students create product and advertising copy to pitch in 'Dragons' Den' Concepts - Representation; Context; Form Skills - Presentation; Evaluation	How to pitch a product: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6p3bdm
Yr8 (KS3)	Topic Area	Knowledge/Skills that are taught	Resources/support at home
Autumn	War Poetry	-Poetry from a variety of different conflicts, including WW1 -Students practise transactional and poetry writing Concepts - Representation; Theme; Context; Debate; Style Skills - Annotating; Analysis; Comparison	Read about war poets https://www.warpoets.org/home/what-is-war-poetry-an-introduction-by-paul-oprey/ Explore War museums https://www.iwm.org.uk/ Reading: <i>Line of Fire</i> by Barroux (graphic novel); <i>Once</i>

			<p>by Morris Gleitzman; <i>Remembrance</i> by Theresa Breslin; <i>The Foreshadowing</i> by Marcus Sedgwick</p> <p>Watch a war movie: 'War Horse', 'Private Peaceful'.</p> <p>Interview a family member about their experience with war/ war evacuation.</p>
Autumn	Diverse shorts	<p>-Anthology unit of prose drawing on 'The Hate You Give' and 'The Boxer'</p> <p>-Diverse voices and experiences foregrounded</p> <p>Concepts - Voice; Narrative; Theme; Style</p> <p>Skills - Composition; Interpretation</p>	<p>Read: <i>A Change is Gonna Come</i> by Darren Chetty, <i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas, <i>The Boxer</i> by Nikesh Shukula, <i>Tender Earth</i> by Sita Brahmachari, <i>The Hypnotist</i> by Laurence Anholt</p> <p>Watch The Hate U Give trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MM8OkVT0hw</p> <p>Watch The Boxer trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6L3Ce5mLj_g</p>
Spring	In the Sea there are Crocodiles	<p>-Contemporary novel study</p> <p>-Students' concepts of voice and narrative developed</p> <p>Concepts - Voice; Form & Structure; Characterisation</p> <p>Skills - Critical writing; Interpretation; Argument</p>	<p>Read: <i>The Bone Sparrow</i> by Zana Fallion, <i>Kick</i> by Mitch Johnson, <i>A Story Like The Wind</i> by Gill Lewis, illustrated by Jo Weaver.</p> <p>Watch the book trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvdvdtpleTo</p> <p>BBC Bitesize - investigating non-fiction texts: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkpfvk7</p> <p>Watch clips of migration stories: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ks3+migration+stories</p>
Summer 1	Romeo and Juliet	<p>-Students read whole Shakespeare play</p> <p>-Material taught creatively using some drama</p>	<p>Download free books or play texts: https://www.gutenberg.org/</p>

		<p>Concepts - Characterisation; Stagecraft; Theme</p> <p>Skills - Presentation; Recreative writing</p>	<p>Read: <i>Noughts & Crosses</i> by Malorie Blackman, <i>Chasing the Stars</i> by Malorie Blackman, <i>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</i> by Benjamin Alire Saenz</p> <p>Look at the RSC website https://www.rsc.org.uk/romeo-and-juliet/the-plot</p>
Summer 2	Ecocriticism and environmental anthology	<p>-Anthology of texts (non-fiction, poetry, prose)</p> <p>-Students practise transactional writing and are introduced to concept of literary theory</p> <p>Concepts - Voice; Setting; Debate</p> <p>Skills - Synthesising; Debating; Evaluation</p>	<p>Read: <i>No One is Too Small to Make a Difference</i> by Greta Thunberg, <i>Into the Wild</i>, <i>Into Thin Air</i> by John Krakauer, <i>The Everest Files</i> by Matt Dickenson</p> <p>Watch: David Attenborough documentaries such as <i>Planet Earth</i>.</p>
Yr9 (KS3)	Topic Area	Knowledge/Skills that are taught	Resources/support at home
Autumn 1	The Empress	<p>-Drama unit based on Tanika Gupta's play</p> <p>-Students develop understanding of stagecraft and dramatic techniques, while context is foregrounded</p> <p>Concepts - Context; Theme; Setting; Stagecraft</p> <p>Skills - Analysis; Presentation; Critical writing</p>	<p>Watch a clip with details about Queen Victoria: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmZPcXI73QM</p> <p>Watch the film 'Victoria and Abdul'</p>
Autumn 2	Dystopian film and media	<p>-Introduction to film and media studies alongside extracts of dystopian prose</p> <p>-Unit foregrounds skills of comparison and interpretation</p> <p>Concepts - Genre; Representation; Theme; Setting</p> <p>Skills - Comparison; Recreative writing; Analysis</p>	<p>Read: <i>1984</i> by George Orwell, <i>A Brave New World</i> by Aldous Huxley <i>Divergent</i>, <i>Maze Runner</i>,</p> <p>Watch: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09k0nzi https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswp6z</p> <p>Watch: <i>Divergent</i>, <i>Maze Runner</i>, <i>Hunger Games</i>, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>, <i>Mad Max</i></p>
Spring 1	Protest campaigns that changed the world	<p>-Anthology unit (non-fiction, poetry) drawing on diverse social and political protest movements including BLM and Stonewall</p> <p>-Students develop understanding of protest poetry as well as speeches</p>	<p>Read: <i>Here I Stand: Stories that Speak for Freedom</i> by Amnesty International UK, John Boyne, et al, <i>On the Come Up</i> by Angie Thomas, <i>Guantánamo Kid</i> by Alexandre Franc and Jérôme Tubiana, BBC News</p>

		<p>Concepts - Voice; Form & Structure; Debate; Style</p> <p>Skills - Debating; Evaluation; Synthesising</p>	<p>online- www.bbc.co.uk,</p> <p>Read about Human Rights https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2fymsg/revison/1</p> <p>Read these articles on speeches that changed the world: https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/46840111</p> <p>Watch a documentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMmqfoJvbGA</p>
Summer 1	Gothic anthology and Frankenstein	<p>-Gothic poetry as well as extracts of Gothic prose followed by reading of whole novel</p> <p>-Unit draws together concepts of character, narrative, genre and context explored throughout KS3 units</p> <p>Concepts - Genre; Theme; Form; Context</p> <p>Skills - Annotating; Critical writing, Comparison</p>	<p>Download free Gothic books, e.g. Edgar Allen Poe short stories https://www.gutenberg.org/</p> <p>Discover other literature texts to read: https://readgreatliterature.com/how-to-find-great-literature-online-for-free/</p> <p>Explore the Gothic genre: https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/themes/the-gothic</p>
Summer 2	A Midsummer Night's Dream	<p>-Drama unit building on skills of understanding and interpreting Shakespeare taught throughout KS3</p> <p>-Students read whole Shakespeare play</p> <p>Concepts - Characterisation; Theme; Stagecraft; Setting; Style</p> <p>Skills - Analysis; Critical writing; Argument</p>	<p>Watch Royal Shakespeare Company performance clips: https://www.rsc.org.uk/at-home-with-shakespeare</p> <p>Watch a live performance of a Shakespeare play or different recorded versions of the play.</p> <p>Explore the play: https://www.bl.uk/works/a-midsummer-nights-dream</p>