

Our KS3 English curriculum at HGCSC

YEAR 7

In Year 7 pupils will build on the knowledge gained at key stage two but begin to challenge themselves further.

We begin with a unit all about freedom; gender freedom, freedom of equality, freedom of expression and freedom to be ourselves. This then moves into our next unit based around writing. We will look at a variety of different writers and look at the techniques they use in their writing and get pupils to use them in their own writing. We also have a clear focus on the fundamentals of writing with spelling, punctuation and grammar. We then look at poetry from around the world, focussing on how poems are used to express ideas, whilst also looking at the different forms of poetry there are. Following this, we focus on the literary heritage and classics; from Medusa to Lady Macbeth; Pandora to Paradise Lost; we will explore a world of literature from across the centuries. Finally, we focus on narrative voice, studying the book Clockwork, and how narrative structures are developed and manipulated to both engage and challenge the reader.

YEAR 9

Y9 is our final year of key stage 3. We look at bringing our knowledge and skills from year 7 and year 8 consolidating and expanding on these.

We begin with a poetry unit focusing on the importance of nature in poetry. We cover symbolism, the sublime and allusions to engage with and analyse our chosen poems. These poems offer challenge to pupils whilst also expanding their cultural understanding of different time periods. After this, we move on to a creative writing fiction unit. We recall skills we have developed in Y7 and Y8 and apply these to more challenging pieces of writing. We focus on structuring our responses using a four-part structure that will be used in key stage 4. This is then followed by a short stories unit. Our stories come from different cultures, traditions and time periods. Our focus here is to be able to analyse language and structure more effectively, developing our critical thinking and evaluative skills. After this unit, we move back to another creative writing unit, this time focusing on non-fiction. This unit allows us to focus on different issues facing the world in which we live. We look at the education system, inequality, environment and social media. With this unit we are able to focus on different types of non-fiction writing and develop and practice our skills to be able to write in an academic way. Both our writing units in Y9 have a heavy focus on the fundamentals of writing; practicing our spelling, punctuation and grammar skills. We end year 9 with a unit based on 20th Century developing an understanding of the 20th Century and key events that happened. This allows our pupils to widen their knowledge of the world they are growing up in and how events of the past influence the lives of today. We consolidate this with a study of *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. We develop our understanding of plays as a form, the events of the play and how *The Crucible* itself is an allegory for the time.



YEAR 8

In Year 8 we develop our curriculum further, expanding the cultural knowledge of our pupils.

We begin with poetry and individual experience. In this unit we will study literary heritage poems and then more modern poets. These poems deal with different experiences from homelessness to patriotism, which will engage, challenge and inspire. After this, we focus on a unit which will fright and delight: *The Gothic*. Pupils will get to read a variety of gothic texts and practice their writing skills, becoming confident gothic writers. We then focus on the Shakespeare classic, *Julius Caesar*. We look at the Art of Rhetoric developed by Aristotle and used by Shakespeare's famous characters, Brutus and Marc Anthony. Alongside this, we will look at how persuasive techniques are used in the real world from political leaders to civil rights campaigners. Our final unit focuses on allegory and we use George Orwell's classic *Animal Farm* to understand how context impacts meaning. We read and analyse the text making connections to the wider world and a focus on how the writer achieves their purpose.

