



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT - LONG-TERM CURRICULUM PLAN (2025-26)



	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Year 7 September 2025	My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece Overview: Pupils explore themes of grief, prejudice, family, and growing up through Annabel Pitcher's novel. They analyse characters, narrative voice, and the impact of real-world events (like terrorism) on personal lives.	Iridescent Adolescents Overview: A thematic unit exploring adolescence and identity through diverse, contemporary short stories or extracts. Pupils reflect on teenage experiences and voice, with creative and analytical writing tasks.	Comparing Non-Fiction Overview: Pupils compare a range of non-fiction texts (articles, letters, speeches) across topics and time periods. The emphasis is on language analysis, purpose, audience, and structural comparison.	Intro to Shakespeare Overview: A foundation unit introducing Shakespeare's life, language, and key themes like power, ambition, and supernatural. Study of extracts from plays like <i>Macbeth</i> and <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> .	Mystery Murder Overview: Pupils read a range of short mystery/crime stories, exploring structure, red herrings, character motives, and tension building. They may also write their own mystery story using learned conventions.	Poetry through the ages Overview: Pupils study a range of poems from different eras (possibly Chaucer to contemporary). The focus is on changing themes, form, language, and context, building analytical and interpretive skills.
Year 8 September 2025	Animal Farm Overview: Pupils study George Orwell's allegorical novella to explore themes of power, corruption, control, and rebellion. They analyse how Orwell uses characters to represent political ideas, develop analytical writing, and engage with historical context (Russian Revolution/Totalitarianism).	Descriptive writing Overview: Pupils focus on developing their creative writing skills, especially descriptive techniques such as sensory detail, figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification), and structural variety. Lessons aim to build vocabulary, tone, and atmosphere, often inspired by imagery or stimulus prompts.	Tempest Overview: Pupils study Shakespeare's <i>The Tempest</i> , focusing on key characters (Prospero, Caliban, Miranda), themes (colonialism, power, forgiveness), and Shakespearean language. The unit develops pupils' understanding of dramatic conventions and Elizabethan context.	Writing for purpose Overview: This unit develops pupils' non-fiction writing skills. They learn to write for different audiences and purposes—such as persuasive letters, speeches, articles, and reviews—focusing on structure, tone, and rhetorical techniques (e.g. emotive language, repetition, rule of three).	War Poetry Overview: Pupils explore a range of war poetry (e.g. Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon) to understand how poets convey the experiences and horrors of war. Key skills include analysing poetic techniques, comparing poems, and exploring historical context (World Wars).	Journey's End Overview: Pupils read R.C. Sherriff's WWI play <i>Journey's End</i> to consolidate their understanding of war literature. Focus is on character development, stagecraft, and themes such as camaraderie, trauma, and the futility of war. This complements the previous unit on war poetry.
Year 9 For 25-26 curriculum for Year 9 will be reduced to 5 topics	Romeo and Juliet Overview: Pupils study Shakespeare's tragic play, exploring themes of love, fate, conflict, and family. They develop confidence with Shakespearean language,	Gothic Literature Overview: Pupils explore the conventions of Gothic fiction through classic and modern texts. They analyse how writers create atmosphere, suspense,	Persuasive writing Overview: This unit develops pupils' non-fiction writing skills. They learn how to craft speeches, letters, and articles using rhetorical devices such as emotive	Identify and culture poetry Overview: Pupils study a diverse range of poems that explore identity, culture, heritage, and belonging. They develop skills in	Diverse Short Stories Overview: Pupils read a range of short stories from global perspectives, focusing on narrative structure, theme, and character. This unit encourages critical	



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	character analysis, and dramatic structure, laying key foundations for GCSE study.	and fear, while also producing their own creative writing using Gothic techniques.	language, repetition, and direct address to persuade and influence an audience.	interpreting poetic methods and exploring how context influences meaning and voice.	thinking and empathy, while building confidence in responding to unseen fiction.	
Year 10 September 2025	An Inspector Calls Overview: Pupils study J.B. Priestley’s modern morality play, focusing on themes of responsibility, class, social justice, and generational conflict. They explore character development, dramatic structure, and the play’s political message in context of post-war Britain.	A Christmas Carol Overview: Pupils analyse Charles Dickens’ novella, exploring Victorian values, morality, and social inequality. They examine Scrooge’s transformation, the role of the three spirits, and Dickens’ use of narrative structure and symbolism to promote social reform.	Lang P1 Descriptive narrative writing Overview: Focus is on fiction reading and descriptive/narrative writing. Pupils analyse writer’s methods (e.g. language and structure) and practise writing creatively, developing imaginative vocabulary, structural control, and engaging openings and endings.	Lang P2 Focus on fiction and non-fiction texts Overview: Pupils compare non-fiction texts from different time periods, identifying viewpoints and analysing how writers use language and structure to influence. They also practise transactional writing (e.g. speeches, articles, letters) with a clear purpose and audience in mind.	Power & Conflict Overview: Pupils study a selection of poems from the AQA Power and Conflict anthology, analysing how poets present ideas about war, power, and identity. They focus on poetic methods, comparison skills, and how context shapes meaning.	Power & Conflict + Unseen + Speaking and listening Overview: Pupils consolidate their knowledge of anthology poems and practise comparing them. They also explore unseen poetry, building confidence in analysing unfamiliar texts. Additionally, pupils plan and deliver their spoken language presentations for the speaking and listening endorsement.
Year 11 September 2025	Revision of the big 4 – Power and Conflict poems (Exposure, Remains, London & SOTI), unseen poetry & AIC Overview: Pupils revisit four key poems from the Power and Conflict cluster, exploring themes of war, power, and human experience. Lessons include close language and structural analysis, thematic connections, and contextual exploration. Pupils also develop	Revision of Macbeth, ACC & Lang P1 Overview: This half-term pupils concentrates on Literature Paper 1 texts. Pupils deepen their analytical skills with Shakespeare’s <i>Macbeth</i> , focusing on ambition, guilt, and the supernatural, and Dickens’s <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , analysing themes	Revision of Lang paper 2 & comparison of power and conflict poems and unseen poetry Overview: Pupils practise the skills required for Language Paper 2 (Writers’ viewpoints and perspectives), focusing on synthesis, summary, and analysis across 19th-21st century non-fiction texts. They also build comparative skills through paired analysis of anthology poems and	Interleaved revision Overview: All key Literature and Language components are revisited through a spiral curriculum model. Lessons interleave extract-based literature practice, poetry comparison, unseen poetry, and both language papers. Pupils	Interleaved revision Overview: Final preparation ahead of GCSE exams. Lessons focus on targeted revision based on mock and assessment data. Pupils refine exam strategy, practise full papers under timed conditions, and complete self/peer assessments to consolidate strengths and	



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	strategies for approaching unseen poetry and refine their understanding of <i>An Inspector Calls</i> , focusing on character, theme, and Priestley's methods.	such as redemption and social responsibility. Alongside this, pupils practise narrative and descriptive writing techniques for Language Paper 1, refining use of structure, tone, and vocabulary.	unseen poetry, focusing on thematic links and writers' methods.	complete timed responses and receive structured feedback to develop exam confidence and technique.	address gaps in knowledge and skills.	
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