

Year 7 Curriculum Principles for English

In Year 7, Team English equip all students with the fundamentals of reading, writing and independent thought which pave the way for outstanding outcomes in year 11 and beyond.

By the end of Year 7 students of English at Dixons Cottingley will be exposed to:

A range of literary and non-fiction texts from the Ancient World through to the Renaissance and into the modern day. Students explore texts such as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Shakespeare's *The Tempest* as well as Michael Morpurgo's contemporary reflection of WW1 in *Private Peaceful*.

Cycle 1 - World War One texts: *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo and accompanying poems

- Exploring a War novel at the start of Key Stage 3 encourages students to interpret social and moral concerns in texts. The scheme affords the opportunity for Year 7 to consider language and structural choices from the start of their education at Dixons Cottingley. This exploration equips our students with the fundamentals of academic writing which they will harness on their way to year 11. The scheme is complimented by a collection of war poetry, exposing students to poetic conventions.

Cycle 2 - Shakespeare's Comedies: *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare

- Students are exposed to dramatic conventions and genre through a Shakespearean play. Team English have compiled a tailored selection of scenes from the play to prioritise a focus on stagecraft, comic and tragic conventions, Shakespearean language and pronunciations and structure.

Cycle 3 - Homer's Epics, the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*

- Students will explore the foundational tales of Western literature through key episodes from Homer's epic poems, the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. The scheme is interwoven with reading and writing tasks to develop students' understanding of historical contexts, language and structural analysis, rhetoric and persuasion, poetic conventions, and grammar. The scheme is complimented by a variety of contemporary texts, bringing antiquity into the modern day with authors such as Margaret Atwood, Carol Ann Duffy and Madeleine Miller.

The English faculty prioritises knowledge retrieval and interleaving to ensure that recall is seamless and knowledge is cemented so students can securely move onto our year 8 curriculum. Differentiation is at the heart of our teaching, ensuring that all students regardless of ability can access and above all enjoy their English lessons.

By the end of Year 7 students of English at Dixons Cottingley will be taught the following skills:

- Advanced academic vocabulary
- A broad and deep appreciation for a variety of literary texts
- The fundamentals of writing including discursive, transactional, creative and academic styles
- Developed oracy through partner and full class talk
- An understanding of socio-historical contexts
- Comparative skills
- Time management and independent research skills through weekly teacher assessed homework

Our English curriculum ensures that social disadvantage is addressed through:

- Exposing students to powerful knowledge through highly regarded works of literature and wider reading which is interwoven through all schemes
- Developing cultural capital through trips and wider experiences including guest lecturers and activity days with leading universities
- Intervention planning for every student meaning that the most gifted are stretched and challenged whilst those who need the most support meet their maximum potential

Opportunities to build an understanding of social, moral and ethical issues are developed alongside links to the wider world, including careers, through.

- Ethical and moral debates
- Stretch lectures which afford the English Faculty opportunities to go beyond the GCSE specification and broaden the scope of students' knowledge.



