

BVGS English Department

Welcome to Bishop Vesey's Grammar School English Department

Our Curriculum Intent:

Empowering students through the study of Language.

Nurturing curiosity, empathy & creativity through Literature.

Curriculum Design and Rationale:

- We have designed a curriculum that empowers students through the study of Language and nurtures a curiosity, empathy and creativity through Literature
- We provide teaching of prose, drama and poetry
- It is important that all students study whole texts in depth
- We provide time in the curriculum for students to read and write for pleasure
- We want students to feel empowered to experiment when writing creatively
- We embed the skills needed for both English Language and Literature GCSE into our Key Stage Three curriculum
- We have selected the texts (Boy in striped PJs, Stone Cold, Of Mice and Men, TKMB, Tempest, Romeo and Juliet) because they allow us to build on the skills set needed for GCSE and beyond. It gives us the opportunity to introduce Shakespeare and then study a whole text - The Tempest. As a comedy, this provides a different approach to Y9 and GCSE where we look at tragedies. We study American Literature in Y9, following the GCSE reforms, as we want students to be prepared for American Literature at A level. Both texts are seminal novels and explore ideas of empathy, morality and worldviews that we feel are essential to explore and discuss. The novels also allow for thematic links as well as links to the wider school curriculum through context.
- Media-non fiction enables us to explore an understanding of the mechanics of language, empowering students to experiment. We also explore non-fiction in context - understanding how it is being used in the real world - empowering our students as citizens.
- Writing poetry gives students a way of expressing themselves, experimenting with form, as well as helping with analysis of poetry
- We set homework that teaches revision strategies, interleaves knowledge, explores context, uses online resources and enables students to be creative and original in the ways they present ideas.

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School - English Department
English Language and Literature GCSE Curriculum Overview

What is GCSE English Literature?

At Bishop Vesey's Grammar school we offer English Language and Literature GCSE. English Language explores a range of fiction and non-fiction and prepares student with the skills to read for meaning and tackle unseen materials. It also prepares students to write creatively and confidently in a particular style and form. English Literature is the in-depth study of prose, drama and poetry including both taught and unseen materials. We begin with the Literature course, building on our Y9 curriculum, and then interweave the Language course across the two years of GCSE study.

What topics will I learn?

English Language

Students will explore a wide range of prose and non-fiction extracts. We take a methodical approach and explicitly teach students the skills required for each question type. The students become familiar and confident with the strategies for each of the reading skills - retrieval, inference, analysis, evaluation, synthesis, and comparison. Students use their Key Stage 3 "Big Write" experience to improve their creative writing skills. Learning to write for a purpose, students experiment with the creative skills and reflect on their word and structural choices. The students are taught how to include linguistic, grammatical and structural devices into their own writing. Students also complete a Spoken Language endorsement presenting to the class on a topic of their choice. We emphasise the importance of effective communication as a life-long skill.

English Literature

Students study a range of Literature through the close and thorough study of novels, play and poetry. Students analyse the writers' presentation of character and themes by exploring authorial methods. In addition, students learn about context and examine writers' purpose. Students learn to compare materials exploring the similarities and differences between texts and writers' intentions. Students explore language and structure and learn to analyse the effect of language, structure and form on the reader. By learning to evaluate writer's purpose and impact, students learn to be perceptive and critical readers of literature.

How will I study?

English Language and Literature is taught over two years, building on the skills taught at Key Stage 3 (see Y7,8 &9 curriculum overviews).

Students will study each of the taught texts in depth through shared reading, textual analysis, discussion and debate. They learn how to independently annotate an extract and plan for an essay question. We have specific strategies to tackle each of the reading questions for the

English Language papers. Students are provided with copies of the taught texts, but we highly recommend that students purchase their own copies to allow for thorough annotation.

Homework complements the lessons and provides opportunities for students to create revision materials for each of the taught texts. As the same skills are needed for Language and Literature, teaching interleaves these and recall of knowledge for each taught text is returned tested frequently.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessments are regular and enable all students to become familiar with the assessment objectives. Assessments are examination-style essay responses or practice English Language papers. The department have a consistent and thorough approach to marking. Exemplar materials, model answers and exam board guidance is used to provide detailed feedback linked to each assessment objective. Furthermore, students complete work, which is peer and selfassessed, again supporting their understanding of the assessment criteria. Each teacherassessed piece is followed by a DIRT feedback lesson. The Spoken Language Endorsement is recorded for moderation purposes and students are awarded a pass, merit or discussion in accordance to the assessment matrix.