



*Year 8 English*  
Curriculum



# *Year 8 English Curriculum -*

## **Introduction**

The Year 8 curriculum, though similar in nature to the previous year, will build on previous knowledge and develop in complexity.

## **Language**

### *1. Grammar and Punctuation*

- Revision of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, and conjunctions in sentences/ passive and active voice.
- Complex sentence structure: Write complex sentences using subordinate clauses (including embedded) and participate phrases as well as prepositional phrases and relative clauses.
- Complex punctuation: Creating sophisticated writing using a range of punctuation correctly.

### *2. Vocabulary*

- Word choice and impact: Explore different words and how they can affect the meaning of a text.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Know and use a wide range of synonyms and antonyms for words and explore how choice can impact style, tone and mood of a narrative. Ensure that vocabulary is precise.
- Expanding vocabulary: Continue to read widely and research new more elaborate words to expand vocabulary.

### *3. Spelling*

- Common and exception words: Practice and learn spellings of challenging words.
- Explore etymology and word origins.



## *4. Writing*

- Advanced Narrative writing: Write stories, recounts, and personal narratives (2nd or 3rd person).
- Revise different writing styles and genres including literary technique involved in gothic literature.
- Persuasive writing: Write arguments and persuasive essays.
- Writing information text
- Develop more complex Formal writing: Write letters, reports, and emails.
- Describing in response to a text: Introduce personal writing style.

## *5. Speaking and Listening*

- Effective communication skills: Practice active listening, giving clear instructions, and participating in group discussions.
- Public speaking: Prepare and deliver speeches on a variety of topics.
- Group discussions: Participate in group discussions and contribute thoughtful ideas with rationale and reasoning.
- Listening comprehension: Listen attentively to lectures, presentations, and conversations.

## *6. Research and Presentation*

- Conducting research: Use a variety of sources (books, articles, websites) to gather information. Learn how to edit.
- Organising information: Create outlines, summaries. and mind maps to organise research findings. Advanced note taking skills.
- Delivering presentations: Prepare and deliver informative and engaging presentations.

# Literature

## *1. Novel: Gothic Literature*

- Character analysis: Explore the development of characters.
- Theme exploration and analysis.
- Setting and context: Understand the symbolism of the island and the impact of isolation.
- Narrative structure: Discuss the use of symbolism, foreshadowing, and the novel's allegorical nature.



## *2. Poetry: War Poetry*

Poetic devices: Identify and analyse the use of imagery, metaphor, alliteration, and sound devices in these poems.

- Tone and mood: Explore the different emotions conveyed in each poem.
- Comparison: Compare the styles and themes of these poets.

## *3. Drama: Shakespeare- Macbeth*

- Character analysis: Analyse the characters of Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Duncan, and Banquo.
- Plot structure: Discuss the use of dramatic irony, foreshadowing, and the tragic flaw.
- Stagecraft and performance techniques: Explore the use of costumes, sets, and acting techniques in a production of the play.

## *4. Short Stories*

- Story structure: Analyse the plot, characters, setting, and theme of each story.
- Comparison: Compare the different styles and themes of these authors.

## *5. Non-Fiction*

- Fact and opinion: Identify facts and opinions in the text.
- Argument structure.
- Evaluating sources.

## *Evaluation and Review*

The curriculum will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness. Feedback from students, teachers, and parents will be considered in the review process.

Updated August 2024

Next review: August 2025