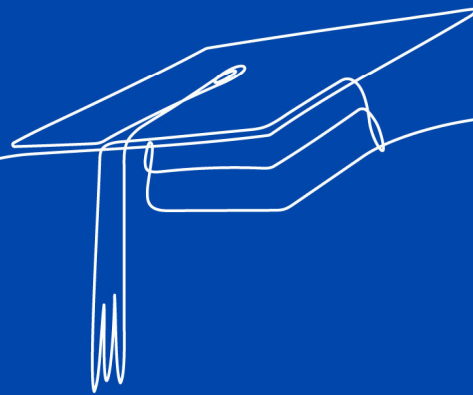




ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

English curriculum overview



English at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy

Key stage 3, Years 7, 8 and 9

Our KS3 English curriculum aims to develop articulate, thoughtful, and imaginative communicators who can read, write, and speak with confidence and purpose. We want every pupil to experience the power of language: how it shapes ideas, expresses identity, and influences the world around us. Through studying a rich and diverse range of texts, from classic literature to contemporary voices, pupils learn to appreciate the depth and variety of human experience, and experience literature as an art form in its own right.

We aim to build strong foundations in reading by teaching pupils to analyse how writers craft meaning, use evidence effectively, and respond critically to ideas and viewpoints. Pupils learn to explore themes, characters, and contexts, developing the ability to interpret texts with insight and independence.

In writing, pupils learn to express themselves with clarity, creativity, and control. They develop a secure understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and structure, enabling them to craft writing for a range of purposes and audiences. We encourage pupils to experiment with language, refine their work through drafting, and take pride in their written voice.

Oracy is central to our curriculum. Pupils learn to articulate ideas clearly, listen respectfully, and engage in discussion and debate. They develop confidence in presenting, performing, and collaborating with others.

Ultimately, our intent is for pupils to leave KS3 as competent, reflective readers; confident, capable writers; and thoughtful, articulate speakers who are ready to succeed in KS4 and beyond.

Key stage 4, Years 10 and 11

Our KS4 English Language and English Literature curriculums are designed to prepare pupils for success in English Language and Literature GCSE using the AQA exam board.

Building on strong foundations from KS3, pupils will learn to apply the core concepts in English and will read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods. They will learn to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures, and will speak confidently and competently. They will read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading, appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage, and write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading

As well as leaving KS4 with a strong qualification in GCSE English Language, our intent is that this curriculum sets pupils up with the skills that will allow them to pursue a future in many related careers.

GCSE course information

Exam board	AQA
Course	GCSE English Language (8700) GCSE English Literature (8702)
Specification and resources	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702

Year 7

The theme of year 7 English is *Adventure and Travel*: a journey of texts through time, from Ancient Greece to the 21st century, exploring a range of aspects of resilience, adversity and diversity.

Students will develop their knowledge of form and structure, language and methods, concepts and ideas, and structural and analytical methods throughout the year. They will also improve aspects of reading, academic writing, creative sentences, grammar and oracy.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	
Ancient Origins <i>The Odyssey</i> Greek Myths	Ancient Origins <i>The Odyssey</i> Greek Myths	Adventure and Colonisation <i>The Tempest</i> Shakespeare play	Adventure and Colonisation <i>The Tempest</i> Shakespeare play	Exploring Culture <i>Poetry from Other Cultures</i>	Exploring Culture <i>Poetry from Other Cultures</i>	Narrative Writing <i>Create your own adventure story.</i>

Assessments will take place in January and June and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.

All Key Stage 3 students participate in one dedicated writing lesson each week. These lessons are delivered in fortnightly cycles: in the first week, students explore a specific writing genre, develop a key grammar skill, and plan a piece of writing. In the second week, they apply their learning by producing an extended written response, demonstrating the techniques, vocabulary and grammatical knowledge developed in the previous lesson. This structured approach helps students build confidence, accuracy and independence as writers across a range of forms and purposes.

Year 8

The theme of year 8 English is voices and perspectives. An exploration of the representation of power, place and conflict examining how individuals and groups have faced and resisted various forms of conflict, control and injustice throughout history. We explore the power of perspectives and narrative voice.

Students will develop their knowledge of form and structure, language and methods, concepts and ideas, and structural and analytical methods throughout the year. They will also improve aspects of reading, academic writing, creative sentences, grammar and oracy.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Gothic <i>The Woman in Black</i>	Gothic <i>The Woman in Black</i>	Words of War <i>Journey's End</i> War Poetry	Words of War <i>Journey's End</i> War Poetry	Travel Writing <i>Various extracts from through the ages.</i> Plus writing practice	Women in Literature <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i>

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Year 9

The theme of year 9 English is *Tragedy and Turmoil*: A reflection on the way writers explore the complexities of human connections, exploring how the natural world, societal pressures, isolation, and emotional struggles shape personal identity.

Students will develop their knowledge of form and structure, language and methods, concepts and ideas, and structural and analytical methods throughout the year. They will also improve aspects of reading, academic writing, creative sentences, grammar and oracy.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Rhetoric <i>An exploration of rhetoric over time.</i> Includes oracy.	Dystopian Fiction <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Dystopian Fiction <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Detective Writing <i>The Mystery of the Speckled Band</i> Used as a model to complete own short detective fiction story.	Tragedy <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Tragedy <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>

Assessments will take place in January and June and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.

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Year 10

Throughout year 10, students will deepen their knowledge of English through two pathways, each preparing for a separate GCSE qualification: English Language and English Literature.

Course	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Language			Language Paper 1 Reading	Language Paper 1 Writing		
English Literature	Shakespeare <i>Macbeth</i> Poetry <i>Power and Conflict</i>	Shakespeare <i>Macbeth</i> Poetry <i>Power and Conflict</i>	Poetry <i>Power and Conflict</i>	Poetry <i>Power and Conflict</i>	Modern Prose or Drama <i>An Inspector Calls</i> Poetry <i>Unseen poetry</i>	Modern Prose or Drama <i>An Inspector Calls</i> Poetry <i>Unseen poetry</i>

Assessments will take place in April and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.

Pupils are assessed regularly in lesson throughout each unit of work to ensure their understanding and progress are closely monitored. Teachers provide timely feedback with dedicated opportunities to reflect on and improve their work. This ongoing cycle of assessment, feedback and improvement enables staff to track progress carefully, provide appropriate support and challenge, and ensure that every pupil is making strong progress towards their learning goals.

Year 11

Throughout year 11, students will deepen their knowledge of English through two pathways, each preparing for a separate GCSE qualification: English Language and English Literature.

Course	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Language	Language Paper 2 Reading and writing		Revision cycles	Revision cycles	<i>Exams</i>	<i>Exams</i>
English Literature		19th century novel <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i>	Revision cycles	Revision cycles	<i>Exams</i>	<i>Exams</i>

Mocks will take place in November and February and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.

From January of Year 11, students complete weekly 'Big Write' tasks designed to develop the advanced reading, writing and analytical skills required for examination success. These extended writing opportunities encourage students to apply subject knowledge, sophisticated vocabulary and accurate technical accuracy in sustained responses. Regular practice enables pupils to refine their ability to organise and communicate ideas effectively, respond to increasingly challenging tasks, and build the confidence, independence and resilience needed to excel in their assessments.