

CURRICULUM INTENT

The English department seeks to inspire passionate readers and proficient writers through a culture rooted in collaborative learning, creative thinking, cultural exploration, and intellectual rigour.

The English curriculum at Avanti Fields is committed to enhancing the intellectual and cultural lives of our students. By delivering access to literary work spanning a plethora of eras, cultures and civilisations through impassioned, strategic and differentiated teaching, the department works to develop and sustain an ambitious level of critical and creative thinking about literature and the world.

By cultivating an understanding and appreciation of English language – both written and spoken – through a number of challenging units throughout the academic year, students will develop their own language and communication skills that will serve them in all fields.

As such, the curriculum is carefully designed and sequenced to not only feed into the skills, knowledge-base, styles and formats which GCSE examinations will demand of our students, but for functions in society beyond academic life.

THE AVANTI WAY

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



CHARACTER FORMATION



SPIRITUAL INSIGHT



The English Department at Avanti Fields strive to uphold ‘educational excellence’ by enhancing the intellectual and cultural lives of our students. The department works to develop and sustain an ambitious level of critical and creative thinking about literature and the world. Students are set to develop their own language and communication proficiencies – including reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills - which are intended to serve them in all fields. A particular emphasis is placed on cultivating resilient readers and dedicated writers. The Programme of Study has been carefully created to be challenging and align with the high expectations of GCSE English whilst allowing for the development of skills, competencies, and qualities beyond academia.

In English, the ‘character formation’ aspect of the Avanti Way is particularly pertinent due to the nature of the topics, themes, and texts that we cover. Across a number of various contexts and literature, we are - by virtue of our subject - engineering discussions and creating curiosity around textual characters: their choices, qualities, relationships and values. Broader themes such as friendship, morality, love, good vs. evil, identity, culture and family span numerous texts covered in the English curriculum, as well as more text-specific themes - all of which lend themselves to discussions around Character Formation. There is a concerted effort to link these discussions to personal experience and development, tapping into students' own worldviews, journeys, and characters. Through this literary and inner exploration, the department hopes to pull importance towards virtues such as empathy, kindness and compassion whilst rendering students confident in who they are and who they aspire to become.

English presents spiritual or religious undertones in many of our studies, especially within those texts which explicitly emphasise or allude to religion. A number of our over-arching subject areas have been adapted to reflect ‘spiritual insight’ by incorporating texts, themes and discussions centred around notions of spirituality and God; these include Cultural Heritage extracts, Shakespeare's plays, 19th Century poetry, romantic poetry, war poetry, pre-19th century fiction, the modern novel and persuasive rhetoric. Qualities such as empathy and forgiveness are particularly prevalent in these literary works. To this end, the English Department teach a unit called 'The Origins of Literature’. This specifically studies different stories and characters derived from ancient Hindu stories, Greek mythology and The Middle Ages which will allow for the cultivation of cultural capital in the form of a rich diverse knowledge and spiritual values such as simplicity, renunciation, and purification.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Students will be provided opportunities to develop the following knowledge, skills and understanding in English:

- **Experience of Literature Across Time and Culture**
- **Developing Love of Reading (Fiction and Non-Fiction Texts)**
- **Critical Thinking and Analysis**

- **Writing Fiction: Narrative and Descriptive**
- **Writing Non-Fiction: Argue, Persuade and Advise; Inform and Explain**
- **Technical Writing Skills/Accuracy**

- **Communication, Presentation and Debate**
- **Interpersonal and Team-Working Skills**

Units	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
Unit 1	Origins of Literature 1 <i>Ancient Myths, Legends and Heroes (Indian and Greek)</i>	The Art Of Rhetoric <i>(Political and Persuasive Speeches)</i>	Modern Novel <i>“The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas</i>
Unit 2	Origins of Literature 2 <i>Beowulf and Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales</i>	William Shakespeare: <i>“The Tempest”</i>	Writing Form & Convention: <i>Non-Fiction texts</i>
Unit 3	William Shakespeare: <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Romantic Poetry: <i>Wordsworth, Shelley, Blake and more</i>	Poetry: <i>“Disturbed Voices”</i>
Unit 4	War Poetry; <i>Owen, Sassoon, Pope, Tennyson and McCrae</i>	Gothic Horror: <i>Extracts and writing own Gothic story</i>	William Shakespeare: <i>“Villains and Heroes”</i>
Unit 5	Modern Novel <i>TBA</i>	Modern Novel: <i>TBA</i>	Pre 19 Century Novel: <i>“The Sign of Four” by Conan Doyle</i>

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Students are assessed regularly in English through a combination of formative and summative assessments. Students receive timely written and verbal feedback after each assessment, following the whole school ‘Strengths, Improvements, and Actions’ (SIA) policy. Post assessments, Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time (DIRT) is built into lessons to allow students to reflect and act upon the feedback by re-drafting segments of their assessment, allowing them to make further progress in their knowledge, skills and understanding.

The Assessments for KS3 English have been designed to prepare towards GCSE Assessments and the KS4 AOs.

The curriculum has been sequenced with challenging units and assessment so that students will approach all age-appropriate GCSE AOs during each year of KS3.

There will be three ‘primary’ assessments each year for each year group covering reading, writing, and spoken language.

PRIMARY ASSESSMENTS:

- Explicit use of skills and Assessment Grids during planning to make expectations clear.
- Students should draft, peer check and use DIRT (Dedicated Improvement & Reflection Time) to improve, before submitting final piece.



- Teacher will mark the student’s final piece in detail, using Assessment Grids and our SIA Policy to ‘grade’ and signpost useful feedback.
- Students use DIRT to rewrite a section/paragraph.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

1. Students should be reading a mixture of **FICTION** and **NON-FICTION** books. They should read for at least 20 minutes a day – if not more!
 - a. Reading material should be a little **challenging** – they shouldn’t just pick an ‘easy’ book. They can discuss the **themes, characters, language, and author’s message(s)** with you!
 - b. Read books or plays that your child needs to study for school – your child will be studying at least **two Shakespeare plays** between now and Year 11 (‘The Merchant of Venice’ in year 7, ‘The Tempest’ in year 8 and then ‘Macbeth’ at GCSE). It can really help them if you read these together and talk about the **language** and **characters**.
 - c. Why not learn a few short quotations together as a competition?
2. Your child could try to learn a new word every day.
 - a. You can download **‘Word of the Day’** – a free app on the App Store
Try to use it in **speech** or in your **writing** at least once in the day!
3. Try some **SKIMMING** and **SCANNING** together.
 - a. Skimming is when you read through a piece of text quickly to find out what the main idea is.
 - b. Scanning is glancing through a piece of text to find a specific piece of information.
 - c. You can do this with a newspaper – perhaps ask your child to find something out for you.
 - d. Why not ask them to scan a newspaper for news about a favourite footballer or to find out the weekend weather, or get them to skim-read a recipe to tell you the basic steps?
4. Help by testing your child when they have **spellings** to learn, and by encouraging them to look up words they don’t know in a dictionary.
5. Use **BBC BITESIZE**: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize> to brush up on **Reading** and **Writing** skills.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR / SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- Debate and discussion ingrained – critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity
- Clear links to Drama lessons (Speaking and Listening skills)
- After-school Debate Club to develop critical thinking and communication skills
- Projects and incentives will be in place to promote Literacy (Reading and Writing):
 - **‘Reading Rampage’ initiative**
 - **‘8 For 8’ Book Challenge**
 - **World Book Day activities**