

## **Overview of Year 8 English Curriculum**

Pupils study 6 modules of work, two in each term

**Unit 1:** Discursive Writing. Pupils study how to structure a formal argumentative piece using persuasive techniques such as bias.

**Unit 2:** Reading Literature. Pupils reinforce the terminology learnt in year 7 through the study of longer narrative poetry. In particular they study a writer's craft in creating atmosphere and suspense in a pre 1914 poem.

**Unit 3:** Writing to imagine, explore and entertain. Pupils further develop their writing skills by studying and using a variety of narrative techniques, in particular third person narration.

**Unit 4:** Reading non-fiction and the Media. A study of the conventions of Soap Operas, game shows, sitcoms or a similar television/ film genre.

**Unit 5:** Writing non-fiction. Pupils study in detail the drafting process through their own writing. In particular they study formal and informal Standard English through letter writing.

**Unit 6:** Speaking and Listening. Pupils study talk for the purpose of recall, clarification, exploration and presentation.

## **Homework**

Homework is set each week. The type of homework set varies. In year 8 homework can be a reading comprehension task, a piece of writing, a language analysis task or the learning of spellings.

## **Examinations/Key assessments**

Pupils are continuously assessed in their English through classroom participation and classwork/ homework completion. Additionally pupils are encouraged to self assess their work using target grades/ levels and pupil friendly grade/level explanations for each unit of work.

Pupils are assessed in speaking and listening, reading and writing in line with National Curriculum levels. By the end of year 8 most pupils will be working between levels 3-6.

Pupils are tested at the end of each unit of work and they then complete a target sheet for their next unit of work. These 6 end of unit tasks are marked in detail highlighting strengths, weaknesses and teacher suggestions for ways to improve.

## **How Parents can help**

- Check that homework is recorded in your son's planner
- Check that his written homework is completed
- Help him when learning spellings through revision and testing
- Provide him with a pocket dictionary that is small enough to bring to lessons
- Check that your son has at least a pen and his books for lessons