

# ENGLISH

## CURRICULUM 2018-19

### KEY STAGE 3

At Key Stage 3, students will learn how to enhance their use of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. Through exciting and engaging schemes of learning, they will be taught to read easily, fluently and with good understanding, and will be encouraged to develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information. Students will begin to use a wider vocabulary, and develop a sound understanding of grammar as well as increasing their knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language. They will be taught to write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences. Students will also be given plenty of opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills through discussion, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

There are twelve formal assessments in Years 7 and 8 for English that are approximately every three weeks. These assessments will test students on what they have been learning in class and will help them understand what they need to do to improve. They will also have a formal end of year examination in the summer term.

Most students who do well in English tend to be keen readers and writers. If students want to improve their skills the best place to start is their reading. Read every day and read a wide range of texts. When reading books, students should stretch themselves; try out authors they've never heard of or more difficult books that will challenge them. Keeping a dictionary close to hand so they can look up words they're unsure of will increase their vocabulary at the same time! To improve their writing, students could keep a diary or write a blog. There are also plenty of writing competitions online, but students should check with a parent or guardian before entering. If they're really ambitious, students could try sending their writing to a local newspaper or a writer they admire for feedback. Many do respond and it's a good way to build up to a career in writing when they are older.

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### KEY STAGE 4

All students work towards GCSE English Language.

The programme of study encourages students to read a wide range of texts, write for specific purposes, and develop speaking and listening skills. The aim is to be able to use language in a wide range of contexts in order to participate effectively in society and employment. The AQA English Language examination requires students to analyse language, explore the significance of structure, and evaluate writers' choices, as well as writing creatively and with originality. They will also work to ensure that their technical accuracy helps to make their meaning and purpose clear as they develop their skills in communication, problem solving, critical thinking, and working with others.

There are regular formal assessments in Years 9, 10, and 11 for English Language that are approximately every three weeks. These assessments will test the GCSE skills students have been developing in class and will help them to understand what they need to do to improve. They will develop their GCSE skills by using the same question stems from the Year 11 GCSE examination and they will be marked using GCSE criteria. Students will also have formal mock GCSE English Language examinations in Years 10 and 11.

Terminal examinations at the end of Year 11:

- Paper One (1 hour & 45 minutes) – Explorations in creative reading and writing
- Paper Two (1 hour & 45 minutes) – Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Most students who do well in English tend to be keen readers and writers. If students want to improve their skills the best place to start is their reading. Read every day and read a wide range of texts. When reading books, students should stretch themselves; try out authors they've never heard of or more difficult books that will challenge them. Keeping a dictionary close to hand so they can look up words they're unsure of will increase their vocabulary at the same time! Expressing themselves eloquently in speech is also vital: better talkers are better writers! It is an imperative for further education and beyond to the world of work. At Shuttleworth, we invite students to get involved in our Debating Club which offers fantastic opportunities for them to pit their verbal skills against students from a range of other local schools.

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All students also work towards GCSE English Literature.

The AQA GCSE English Literature specification encourages students to read a wide range of texts (plays, poems and prose), and should extend their enthusiasm for literature and how it influences the reader. They will study texts from a range of time periods, including key examination texts written before the twentieth century. This specification encourages them to explore the context in which texts are written and received therefore they will be required to complete independent research to aid their understanding of the texts. They will explore texts from different cultures and traditions, connect ideas over time and become critical readers as well as enjoying reading for pleasure. The programme of study also develops students' skills in communication, critical thinking, working with others, and develops an appreciation of the world in which we live.

There are regular formal assessments in Years 9, 10, and 11 for English Literature. These assessments will test the GCSE skills they have been developing in class, as well as their knowledge of the texts and their contexts, and will help them to understand what they need to do to improve.

They will develop their GCSE skills by using the same question stems from the Year 11 GCSE examination and they will be marked using GCSE criteria. Students will also have formal mock GCSE English Literature examinations.

Success when studying GCSE English Literature relies on a foundation of effective reading skills. In order to stretch their learning, students should read additional texts by the writers they are studying, or read texts from similar contexts. Teachers will be happy to give suggestions! An understanding of the social and historical contexts will help students to be successful in the examinations so they should ensure that they make notes when they complete your research. Also, students will have the opportunity to study critical theory, something covered for A Level Literature, which will help them to explore texts more critically. Ask an English teacher for the suggested reading list.

At Shuttleworth we strive to organise regular theatre trips which we will invite students to attend to immerse themselves in literature. Students could also go to the theatre with friends or family!