

ENGLISH

Student year: **Lower 4 (Yr 8)**

Head of Department: **Mr M Loosemore**

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Lower 4 students continue to refine their written skills and begin to develop their appreciation of the English Literary Heritage from studying texts from other periods, as well as promoting cultural understanding by reading texts set in other cultures.

Subject / Topic

Skills / Attitudes

Texts are chosen at the class teacher's discretion but must include examples of prose fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction texts. Works covered may include:

Novels:

- A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)
- Kiss the Dust (Elizabeth Laird)
- Holes (Louis Sachar)
- Maggot Moon (Sally Gardner)

Poetry:

- Conflict poetry

Drama:

- Shakespeare in performance

Non-fiction texts:

- Autobiography project
- Magazine project

Speaking and Listening:

All students engage in increasingly challenging role play, debating, drama, discussion, group and paired work. Students are introduced to Shakespeare in performance.

Reading:

Texts are increasingly challenging in content and vocabulary and are investigated in more depth. Students discuss and write about language choice and effect with confidence, and learn how to incorporate detailed reference to texts. In poetry more study is made of rhyme, rhythm, structure and form.

Writing:

Students broaden their range of skills to include analytical writing. As well as creating fictional narratives and poems, each student must revise the conventions of writing for different purposes (descriptive, persuasive, explanatory and argumentative).

Spelling, punctuation and grammar:

Students develop their vocabulary; emphasis is put on correcting spelling mistakes and revising key spelling rules. Punctuation rules are revisited as necessary and greater import is placed on more ambitious use of punctuation. Students are made increasingly aware of how syntax can be manipulated to create a particular effect.