

EPCHS English Department: Year 8 Programme of Study

The overall curriculum is intended to develop a love of English and reading, as well as expose students to different stories and contexts they would not otherwise have considered. We also wish to prepare students for the skills required at GCSE. Consequently, the structure of the curriculum has been designed so that there is clear progress from one year to the next. Each year the units build on the knowledge and understanding gained in the previous year. The intention is that by the time our students reach year 10, they have gained a deep body of knowledge of both literature and language, and developed skills that will enable them to access the GCSE course with confidence.

Year/Term	Unit of Work	Intent
Autumn 1	Twentieth Century Novel: Of Mice and Men	This unit will To give students an understanding of how a writer presents relationships between characters. It will enable students to understand how a writer creates conflict through the interaction of characters who embody different attitudes and ideas. The significance of context will be taught with increasing complexity and how context influences attitudes within society.
Autumn 2	Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet	Students will study a whole original Shakespeare script introducing concepts and the terminology of tragedy. This unit is building on a previous Unit in Year 7 which looked at humour within his plays. The contrast between humour and tragedy will be studied. This will support an understanding of the different genres within a Shakespearean text leading to GCSE study of Macbeth.
Spring 1	Poetry: The World's Wife poems by Carol Ann Duffy	Students will develop their appreciation of poetry by learning how to compare 2 poems. This is building on a previous unit from year 7 which looked at poetic features and forms. This will prepare them, specifically, for the GCSE poetry tasks. Students will also enhance their understanding of nonfiction texts and the link with the complexities of gender relations, the roles of women, and the often ill treatment of women through fictional texts.
Spring 2	Non Fiction: Speeches that	This unit will build on forms of spoken language and include the study of rhetoric. It will enable students to identify key features of persuasive writing for a specific

	Changed the World	purpose and audience and to use them effectively in their own writing. Students will learn to adapt their writing and begin to use ethos, pathos and logos in their own work.
Summer 1 and 2	Literary Heritage: The Hound of the Baskervilles	<p>This text was chosen to enable students to engage with their literary heritage and develop their understanding of genre that began in the Dystopian unit in Y7. This unit enables students to deal with a challenging nineteenth century text, acclimatising them with the language and some of the context of the era.</p> <p>Students will also explore several thematically linked poems in this unit in order to encourage them to make connections across texts, and to develop confidence with analysing unseen poetry.</p>