



Why is the study of English important?

Because English is essentially concerned with communication, whether through written or spoken form, it is a subject fundamental to personal intellectual growth and enables us to make sense of the world around us. The ability to use spoken and written language allows us to participate effectively in society and in the workforce. English is the major language of national and international communication and therefore all students need to develop the ability and confidence to speak and write competently. From Year 7 students will be building on the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in their primary schools and in reading they will tackle a wide range of fiction and non-fiction, poems and plays that include works by 19th, 20th and 21st century writers. For example, students will read and study plays by Shakespeare, exploring themes and characters and how the issues in his plays are pertinent to modern society. More modern texts, such as 'My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece' and 'Noughts and Crosses' allow students to consider themes such as relationships and loss and they invite discussion and reflection on key moral issues. There will be opportunities to explore the craft of the writer and how language is used for effect and influences the reader. Additionally, articulating a personal evaluation of a text that is supported by careful selection of evidence, and considering alternative viewpoints allows students to develop more objective insights to character and situation.

We believe that the curriculum time given to English in our schools allows the development of high standards of language and literacy so that students communicate their ideas, views and emotions with increasing fluency and confidence, whether in writing or speech. Spoken language underpins the development of students' reading and writing in the early years of secondary school and opportunities are created for discussion and debate, collaborative and individual presentations and speeches, performing play scripts and reading poetry and stories aloud. We promote reading as a way of acquiring knowledge and as a way of exploring the world in ways that develop students culturally, emotionally, socially and intellectually. In particular, we encourage the habit and enjoyment of reading, whether that be to explore situations vicariously through literature – as 6-year-old Scout in 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is told by her father, Atticus Finch: "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." – to appreciate and learn about our literary heritage or to gain information from a variety of sources. Confidence, control and skills in writing are developed through frequent opportunities to write imaginatively and through transactional writing where purpose, audience and format are significant considerations alongside content. Across all writing activities opportunities will be created to enhance and extend students' vocabulary as well as their written accuracy and develop their ability to construct and manipulate sentences for effect. Students will be able to build on the knowledge and skills gained in key stage 2 so that, for example, their understanding of grammar, and ability to employ subject-specific terminology confidently is further developed. The English curriculum in our schools is rigorous, with appropriate challenge and consolidation to allow students of all abilities to flourish, whilst offering opportunities for increased breadth and depth for more-able students and support and intervention for students who are less fluent. The skills, knowledge and understanding developed through the early years in our schools provide a solid preparation for success in KS4 examination courses (Eduqas) and post-16 A-level courses.

What skills will the study of English teach you?

English will develop skills in written and oral communication and will develop increasingly sophisticated skills as a reader.

- To speak confidently and accurately in a range of contexts
- To participate confidently in discussions, presentations, role-play and collaborative group work
- To develop the skills of exploratory, collaborative and tentative talk as a means of developing and shaping understanding
- To write accurately for a range of audiences and purposes – using grammar, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation accurately
- To use language as a means to persuade, clarify, explain, narrate, express emotion
- To develop the skills of planning, drafting and editing in writing
- To acquire and use confidently a wider vocabulary
- To read for enjoyment and information
- To develop cultural awareness and knowledge of literary heritage
- To develop interpretive skills and critical thinking

What will you know and understand from your study of English?

- Know and experience a variety of poetry, prose and drama from the literary canon and wider sources
- Know and understand the conventions involved in reading and writing different texts
- Understand how to manipulate language for effect, for example, to persuade
- Develop an appreciation of how writers are influenced by the world that surrounds them – context

How does your study of English support your study in other subjects?

English as a subject is essentially concerned with communication, whether in written or spoken form, and developing those communication skills supports all other curricular subjects. For example, the ability to participate in and lead discussions involves listening to others, considering alternative viewpoints and perspectives and using judgment to weigh up arguments. It frequently demands negotiation and team working when presenting ideas and information and the ability to articulate concisely, ideas and opinions, show an understanding of texts, base conclusions on research or evidence and so on. Because speaking and listening activities in English are often built around collaborative work, having respect for others' views and contributions develops self-discipline and empathy for others. These are transferable skills that impact on all other subjects. Most subjects involve written work and because work in English is often about honing and improving the quality and accuracy of written work, the skills and knowledge about aspects of language such as spelling and grammar and technical accuracy, have a positive impact on the quality of written work in other curriculum subjects. All students study English Literature and the deep study of texts helps develop skills of analysis, perhaps of themes, language, characters, social change or historical events. At its best, Literature illuminates the human condition and offers the reader opportunities to explore and reflect on situations others have faced. In 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley, the main character is a character who is passionate and ambitious, and as a result feels isolation and rejection. In exploring this character's motivations, students have to explore questions of integrity, compassion, loyalty and responsibility. As a result, English Literature can be seen as a powerful agent for social, moral, cultural and spiritual development.

How can students deepen their understanding of English?

As a subject, English involves a lot of writing, including extended creative and transactional responses and the quality and accuracy of students' writing is only developed by 'doing writing'. Some would say that before you can write well, you must read a lot and so reading will underpin most written work in English, whether that is studying literature or non-fiction writing texts such as extracts from autobiographies or biographies, diaries, reports, articles and multi-modal texts of various kinds from newspapers and magazines, and the internet. Students will be given lots of opportunities to write, simply because asking them to spend more time articulating their thoughts and ideas and organising them improves their understanding of what they want to say and how to say it in increasingly effective ways. There are a wealth of activities to engage in beyond the classroom be it book clubs, debating groups, creative writing or film clubs.

How are you assessed in English?

In English, students are assessed using the following assessment objectives which form the basis of assessment at GCSE. They cover the skills assessed in Reading (AO 1-4), Writing (AO5-6) and Speaking and Listening (AO7-9). There are half termly assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars©. For younger years we base our assessment on our subject mapping of the age related expectations across the curriculum, assessing students' performance at their current stage of study against expectation. At GCSE we make informed predictions informed by our holistic assessment of their progress against the key assessment objectives and their aspirational GCSE targets. These are also the basis for any appropriate support and intervention.

Key Assessment Objectives

AO1

- Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas
- Select and synthesise evidence from different texts

AO2

- Explain, comment on analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views

AO3

- Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts

AO4

- Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references

AO5

- Communicate clearly, effectively, and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences
- Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts

AO6

- Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)

AO7

- Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting

AO8

- Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback to presentations

AO9

- Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.

How can the study of English support students beyond school?

English provides a strong foundation for any job or profession that involves communication, writing and/or literary knowledge. These include advertising and marketing, writing and journalism, law, teaching, performing arts, government, linguistics, foreign languages, media and design. Careers in the sciences, engineering, technology and maths also need English and in fact any profession that requires analytical thinking, strong verbal and written communication, imagination or creativity can draw on the key skills acquired whilst studying English.

Careers that the study of English supports include:

- Journalism
- Teaching
- Publishing: copy editor / proof-reader
- Editorial Assistant
- Law: solicitor / barrister/ paralegal
- Librarian / Archivist
- Screenwriter
- Marketing & advertising
- Social media
- Web content manager
- Public Relations
- Human Resources
- Events management
- Research

CURRICULUM PROGRESSION PATHWAY FOR ENGLISH At Outwood Academy Kirkby 2024/2025

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10 (OGAT Teaching Plan)	YEAR 11 (OGAT Teaching Plan)
Autumn 1	<p>Memoirs Unit (year 6-7 transition)</p> <p>My Sister lives on the Mantelpiece, Annabel Pitcher</p>	<p>Memoirs Unit (year 7-8 transition)</p> <p>Noughts and Crosses, Malorie Blackman. A study of the play adapted by Dominic Cooke</p>	<p>Memoirs Unit (year 8-9 transition)</p> <p>Gothic literature and Frankenstein, Mary Shelley</p>	<p>Literature: Poetry post 1789</p> <p>Literature: A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens</p> <p>Language: Reading</p> <p>Transactional writing</p>	<p>Literature: Poetry post 1789</p> <p>Literature: Shakespeare's Macbeth</p> <p>Literature: A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens</p> <p>Language: Reading</p>
Autumn 2	<p>My Sister lives on the Mantelpiece, Annabel Pitcher</p> <p>Creative writing</p>	<p>Noughts and Crosses, Malorie Blackman. A study of the play adapted by Dominic Cooke</p> <p>Non-fiction writing</p>	<p>Gothic literature and Frankenstein, Mary Shelley</p> <p>Non-fiction writing</p>	<p>Narrative Writing</p>	<p>Transactional writing</p> <p>Narrative Writing</p>
Spring 1	<p>Time and Place poetry</p> <p>Non-fiction writing</p>	<p>Different Cultures poetry</p> <p>Non-fiction writing</p>	<p>Conflict poetry</p> <p>Creative writing</p>	<p>Literature: Poetry post 1789</p> <p>Literature: Shakespeare's Macbeth</p> <p>Language: Reading</p>	<p>Transactional writing</p> <p>Narrative writing</p> <p>Lit: An Inspector Calls Anthology Poetry</p> <p>Literature: Shakespeare's Macbeth</p>
Spring 2	<p>Shakespeare's A MidSummer's Night Dream</p> <p>Creative writing</p>	<p>Long Way Down, Jason Reynolds</p> <p>Creative writing</p>	<p>Animal Farm, George Orwell</p> <p>Non-fiction writing</p>	<p>Transactional writing</p> <p>Narrative Writing</p>	<p>Literature: Shakespeare's Macbeth</p> <p>Literature: A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens</p> <p>Language: Reading</p> <p>Transactional writing</p> <p>Narrative Writing</p>
Summer 1	<p>Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens</p>	<p>Local literature, various local writers</p>	<p>Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet</p>	<p>Literature: Poetry post 1789</p>	

				Literature: An Inspector Calls, J B Priestley	Revision to compliment Language and Literature papers
Summer 2	Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens Non-fiction writing	Local literature, various local writers Creative writing	Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet Creative writing	Language: Reading A02,A03 + A04 Transactional writing Narrative Writing	