



Overview

Year 8 will continue to build on previous knowledge and skills acquired in Year 7 to prepare students for more challenging choices of texts and themes. Analysis and evaluation skills will be furthered through reading, writing, speaking and listening. The ability to unpick layers of meaning when reading texts will be central to our work. We will have a continuous focus on developing the accuracy of our written work, as well as empowering students to make deliberate and adventurous word (and technique) choices in their own writing.

Year 8

English

Term 3

The Tempest and Speaking and Listening

In the final term, we will explore Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*, considering some of the big questions it poses on themes including: power, freedom, compassion and justice. As well as learning how to follow a complex narrative and tackle unfamiliar language, we will enjoy acting out key scenes and exploring characters, through in-depth analysis of Shakespeare's language choices and other literary devices. We will demonstrate our understanding, by writing from the point of view of different characters. We will consider how the world Shakespeare lived in may have influenced his writing.

In our study of non-fiction texts, we will look at a range of different text types and prepare and rehearse our own presentations to build oracy skills to be able to present to a variety of audiences.

Term 1

Gothic Horror and Dracula

Your reading focus will explore genre, character, structure and literary devices, as we study the Gothic Horror genre, covering classic texts such as *The Tell-Tale Heart* and the playscript of *Dracula*. We will explore how mood and atmosphere can be created and sustained throughout a text. In writing, we will look at creating our own gothic descriptions, as well as how we can persuade our target audience, using a range of language features. You will also have the opportunity to get up out of your seat and take a role, as we perform sections of the play!

Term 2

'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and Strong Emotions in Recent History

Why are survivors' stories important? This term, you will be exploring the social, historical and cultural themes that influenced the writing (and the reading) of the novel *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. We will deepen our understanding of the various narrative techniques used by the writer and we will refer to a wide-range of fiction and non-fiction accounts of the time period, in order to understand the cultural significance of these stories. We will challenge ourselves to write from different perspectives, showing empathy with characters, as well as the ability to vary our language choices to suit our text, audience and purpose.

In the second half of the term, you will be introduced to modern poetry, by studying a range of poems that all present strong emotions. We will recap the poetry basics, including language and structural choices, as well as genre conventions. We will work on building our confidence when encountering unseen poetry and unravelling the clues that help us to decode meaning. We will celebrate thoughtful, personal responses to poems and will present evidence when explaining our thoughts.