

# ENGLISH

## Curriculum Vision Statement

"I read thousands of books and I will power myself with knowledge".

Malala Yousafzai

## Vision

In English at Northampton School for Girls (NSG) we enable our students to become confident readers, engaging writers and articulate speakers by exposing them to a wide variety of texts and sources that we analyse. We build on the Reading and Writing skills established in Key Stages 1 & 2 by fostering a love of the written word in all its creative forms - prose, poetry, drama and non-fiction through planning lessons that are creative and challenging. Our girls become critical, questioning independent readers who are able to evaluate and interrogate the ideas in what they read, as well as being able to recognise the impact of great writing. Furthermore, we equip the students themselves to become proficient and engaging writers across a range of genres by teaching them the drafting and redrafting process. We enable students to develop wide vocabularies and become competent spellers. Most importantly, our students feel empowered to voice their ideas in discussion as well as recognising the importance of being polite, respectful listeners.

Mastering the basic skills in English at NSG supports students across the curriculum. As a communication subject it is key to any career a student may wish to follow. Specifically, studying English Language or Literature at a higher level will open careers in Publishing, Journalism, Public Relations, Management and many more.

## Implementation

The promotion and development of independent reading skills sits at the heart of our Year 7 and Year 8 curriculum and this will be underpinned by all students following the Accelerated Reader Programme. One lesson a week is a dedicated library lesson and every classroom-based lesson will commence with a period of silent reading. Through our schemes of work, we introduce students to a wide range of texts and authors, including those from other cultures and those published before 1900.

Our lessons focus on the teaching, practising and mastering of a key range of reading and writing skills which ensure that students are ready to engage with the demands of the GCSE curriculum in Years 9 to 11. Some of the teaching tools we use are discussion, critical thinking, metacognition, high quality questioning and retrieval and retention skills. This includes the teaching of spelling skills in Year 7 and vocabulary building in Year 8. At GCSE the students follow AQA Language and OCR Literature where the skills mastered in Y7 and Y8 are strengthened.

## Our Programmes of Study

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Class novel	Introduction to the Gothic	Dystopian or Generation core skills unit Language Paper 1	Shakespeare Context and Cultural Enrichment Unit Language Paper 2	Literary Heritage Text Revisiting Language Paper 1 and Paper 2
<b>Spring Term</b>	Modern drama	Performance poetry Speeches	Modern Text Study Language Paper 1	Study of Shakespeare play Language Paper 2	Revision of all Literature texts and Language skills.
<b>Summer Term</b>	Film Study Introduction to Poetry	Class Novel	Spoken Language Study Language Paper 1	Poetry from OCR Anthology Language Paper 2	

## Assessment

### Year 7 and Year 8

Students undertake three reading and three writing assessments per year (half-termly). They also take the Accelerated Reader Star Test four times per year to track improvement in reading age, and the Vernon Spelling test will be administered at the start and end of each academic year to determine spelling age.

### Year 9 to Year 11

Assessments are half termly and are in the style of exam questions.

## Independent Learning

Students will be expected to read independently for a minimum of 30 minutes per week and written Home Learning will be set fortnightly for Y7 and Y8.

### Year 9 to Year 11

The Home Learning for Year 9 to Year 11 is set weekly and students are expected to complete two hours a week. The tasks will be determined by the texts and units being studied and students are expected to read their GCSE texts at home in order to study them in class.

### Online resources:

[www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/english/](http://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/english/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3kw2hv](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3kw2hv)

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources)

[www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/english-literature-j352-from-2015/assessment/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/english-literature-j352-from-2015/assessment/)

[www.sparknotes.com/](http://www.sparknotes.com/)

[www.shmoop.com/study-guides/literature](http://www.shmoop.com/study-guides/literature)