



# Curriculum Overview

## Curriculum Area: English Year: 8

### Year 8 Curriculum:

#### **Spring Term: Women in Literature**

All pupils will explore the presentation of female independence in Literature texts through the study of the whole text '**Jane Eyre**' by Charlotte Bronte. In this unit all pupils will also develop knowledge and understanding of how the autobiographical form and chronological narrative of Jane Eyre depicts and shapes her journey as an independent woman in society. Pupils will also understand how a character's heritage/history can shape their identity and use this to explain in depth the events in Jane Eyre's life.

*G&V - drawing on new vocabulary and grammatical constructions from their reading and listening, and using these consciously in their writing and speech to achieve particular effects*

#### **Spring Term A: The Power of Language**

All pupils will explore the importance of the power of language in literature texts through the study of the whole text '**Animal Farm**' by George Orwell. Pupils will develop knowledge and understanding of how Orwell uses the components of rhetoric and propaganda in the novel. All pupils will explore the key political, social context and messages presented in the novel. They will use perspective, bias and viewpoint in their own speaking and writing.

*G&V - drawing on new vocabulary and grammatical constructions from their reading and listening and using these consciously in their writing and speech to achieve particular effects.*

#### **Spring Term B: Romanticism in Poetry**

All pupils will explore **The Romantic Movement** and how it originated. Pupils will also develop knowledge of how the context of the time in which a poet lives can influence their work. In addition to this all pupils will explore in depth the poets **William Wordsworth** and **William Blake** and use their exploration of nature to inspire their own poetry.

*G&V - using Standard English confidently in their own writing and speech.*

#### **Summer Term: Play Scripts**

All pupils will explore the conventions of a play script through the whole study of '**Journey's End**' by R.C. Sherriff. Pupils will explore the use of the conventions of script writing to develop character and themes. Although, war is the overarching theme of the play, pupils will also explore the themes of comradeship, social class and courage. Pupils will strengthen their knowledge of components used in script writing by writing their own short script that explores one of the main themes from Journey's End.

*G&V - knowing and understanding the differences between spoken and written language.*

### Links to National Curriculum

**Reading:** Developing an appreciation and love of reading in increasingly challenging material. Read critically through knowing how language, structure and organisational techniques present meaning. Studying setting, plot and characterisation and their effects on the reader. Understanding how the work of dramatists is communicated effectively through performance and how alternative staging allows for different interpretations of a play. Studying a range of authors, including at least two authors in depth each year. *G&V - extending and applying the grammatical knowledge to analyse more challenging texts*

**Writing:** applying their growing knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and text structure to their writing and selecting the appropriate form. Considering how their writing reflects the audiences and purposes for which it was intended through stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing. *G&V - drawing on new vocabulary and grammatical constructions from their reading and listening, and using these consciously in their writing.*

**Spoken English:** Improvising, rehearsing and performing play scripts and poetry in order to generate language and discuss language use and meaning, using role, intonation, tone, volume, mood, silence, stillness and action to add impact. *G&V - knowing and understanding the differences between spoken and written language.*

### Knowledge and understanding of this curriculum will be assessed by:

A detailed analysis of Old Major's speech in Animal Farm.

A written leadership speech for Snowball or Napoleon using rhetorical devices to shape an argument and convince an audience.

A news article to report the fire at Thornfield Hall.

A creative writing piece that uses the poem Exposure as inspiration and focuses on setting.

#### **Spoken Language:**

Jane Eyre Vs Rochester debate.

Battle of the Cowshed news broadcast/interview.

Journey's End mini presentation.

### Powerful Knowledge/Cultural Capital Opportunities

Knowledge and understanding of exploitation, injustice and inequality.

Understanding that people need to respect and love themselves before they can have a meaningful relationship with someone else.

Knowledge and understanding of resilience and having the strength to overcome adversity in a variety of ways (as presented in the Literature texts studied).