



Curriculum Intent of ENGLISH and MEDIA

September 2026

English Department: Curriculum Intent

Key Stage Three

The intent of the KS3 English curriculum is to foster positive personal identity, develop social awareness and opinion on social issues and to provide our students with access to the power of literature through a wide range of reading and writing experiences.

The curriculum will provide our students with the essential literacy skills they need to prepare them for future learning and to participate fully in their world. Crucially, our curriculum will teach students how to express themselves honestly and effectively.

Students will:

- Develop an appreciation and love of reading, through reading a broad range of texts, representative of a variety of voices and cultures.
- Begin to read critically, considering the impact of choices made by the writers.
- Consolidate and build on knowledge of grammar and vocabulary through the planning, editing, drafting and proof reading of writing.
- Write with increasing accuracy, fluency and effectiveness, at length and for pleasure.
- Speak confidently and listen intently to peers.

Key Stage Four

The KS4 English curriculum develops the skills required to ensure success for our students at GCSE. The intention is to prepare students to make good progress and to achieve their target grades.

Alongside this, the curriculum will continue to provide our students with the essential literacy skills they need to prepare them for future learning and to participate fully in the world. Whilst their reading range will focus on the texts required by the National Curriculum for GCSE, we will continue to ensure diversity of voice wherever possible, particularly through our work to ensure the students are able to fully express themselves.

Students will:

- Read and understand an increasing range of challenging texts independently.
- Particularly develop the skills required to respond independently to an unseen text.
- Read and respond critically to studied texts, as well as to those which are unfamiliar.
- Appreciate and apply social and historical contextual information to texts.
- Write formal, academic essay responses.
- Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information.
- Plan, edit and proof-read writing (in a variety of settings, including formal exams).
- Speak confidently and listen intently to peers. Adapt the way you speak in a variety of different contexts and for different audiences.

Key Stage Five

The intent of the KS5 English curriculum is to prepare learners to successfully complete their A Level examination by making excellent progress throughout the two-year course.

Alongside this, the curriculum will allow students to access literary contexts and canons, providing students with the cultural capital necessary to succeed in tertiary study and to participate fully in the world.

Students will:

- Judiciously apply social and historical context to your contextual responses.
- Read and understand challenging material independently. Where understanding is not immediate, persevere with research and wider reading to ensure it is achieved.
- Read and respond critically to all texts and tasks, considering the broader thematic ideas relating to the texts.
- Write formal, academic essay responses.
- Research texts, concepts and critical viewpoints.
- Discuss thoughtfully and sensitively to allow access to the full scope of ideas and critical viewpoints available from experienced critics as well as your peers.

Media Studies Department: curriculum intent

Key Stage Four

The intent of the KS4 Media Studies curriculum is to prepare learners to successfully complete their GCSE qualification in Media Studies. We also aim to foster an appreciation of the central role the media plays in contemporary society and culture and offer the opportunity to engage with key issues and debates, raising important questions about the media. Further, to understand through both analysis and practical work that the media shapes our perceptions of the world through the representations, viewpoints and messages they offer. At KS4, the curriculum will introduce learners to a theoretical framework for analysing the media, which also underpins study of the media at AS and A level.

Student will:

- Develop enquiry, critical thinking, and analysis when considering a range of media texts.
- Knowledge and understanding of a range of important media issues.
- Develop an appreciation and critical understanding of the media and their role both historically and currently in society, culture and politics.
- Understand and apply specialist subject-specific terminology to analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed in order to make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions about media issues.
- Appreciate how theoretical understanding supports practice and practice supports theoretical understanding.
- Develop practical skills for creative media production

Key Stage Five

The intent of the KS5 Media Studies curriculum is to prepare learners to successfully complete their A Level qualification in Media Studies. Learners will study a wide range of rich and stimulating media products across eras and cultures, offering opportunities to debate key critical questions related to the social, cultural, political and economic role of the media. Students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of the crucial role that the media plays in our perception and experience of the world. In doing this, they will develop a critical and evaluative voice which will reflect their independence of thought and experience in studying this discipline.

Students will:

- Continue to develop knowledge of the dynamic and changing relationships between media forms, products, industries and audiences.
- Develop an awareness of the global nature of the media.
- Take a critical approach to media issues
- Apply of theoretical knowledge and specialist subject specific terminology to analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed
- Make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions about media issues
- Engage in critical debate about academic theories used in media studies
- Appreciate how theoretical understanding supports practice and practice supports theoretical understanding.
- Develop sophisticated practical skills in creative media production.