

KS3 Curriculum Intent

'To instil a passion for the power of the written word'

We want our KS3 English curriculum at Malbank to be without limits. We strive to give young people the opportunities, experiences, knowledge and analytical tools to speak, write and read confidently, appropriately, and on their own terms in whatever context they find themselves in. We want them to see the value of language and literature both inside the classroom to allow them to cultivate a curiosity of the world around them.

Our curriculum is designed to allow all students regardless of background and prior attainment to see the joy in the written word and begin to develop the skills needed to succeed at GCSE and beyond.

Furthermore, the English team enhance the excellent input given in lessons by also running a range of House events and extra curriculum activities. These include: *theatre trips, House Reading Bingo, Year 7 Spelling Bee, and Writing Competitions.*

A Thematic Approach to KS3

By structuring a curriculum by theme, we aim to provide a concept-based learning experience that allows students to see patterns, appreciate deeper layers of meaning and make connections across literature, language and the media. Our schemes of learning allow our students to explore the human condition. They can transcend cultures and allow students to engage with the broad idea that reading and writing helps us to make sense of the world we live in and the experiences we have.

Year 7

Year 7 start their Malbank career with a rigorous, demanding year that encourages them to explore what society values and delve into how literature can represent this. The key skills they bring with them from primary school are developed and extended with new areas such as *structure analysis* being introduced to allow a strong element of stretch and challenge. Additionally, all pupils are subscribed to Accelerated Reader allowing for healthy competition between pupils as well as an independent way of assessing their true reading ability.

Term 1

Big Question: 'What inspired Victorian Writers?'

We begin Year 7 with an introduction to Victorian writers and explore the links between well-known literary texts and the influence of the contextual factors.

Term 2

Big Question: 'What makes a hero and a villain?'

An exploration of heroes and villains in different contexts. Students will study a range of texts, from historical, TV & film, modern-day heroes and mythical. Students will consider the wider influences that mythology has across a range of texts, including biblical allusions.

Term 3

Big Question: 'Why and How does English Language change over time?'

This unit covers modern language change, including, word origins, accents and dialects, loanwords, and the impact of technology. Students study a range of texts, including Beowulf, Chaucer and Shakespeare.

Year 8

In year 8, we want to build on the strong foundations that pupils will have gained from year 7 and allow students to continue developing their skillset and knowledge of both the real world and key literary concepts. The topics chosen allow the students to see the relevance of the subject and make a plethora of connections between English and their real lives.

Term 1

Big Question: 'How do people use the power of the written word to try and change the world?'

This unit allows students to explore literature of different cultures and traditions; considering how language can be used powerfully in both the spoken and written form to convey thoughts and generate change. Students will also read diverse literature which explores life on the 'outside' of power and privilege; a study of those who do not belong.

Term 2

Big Question: 'What happens when society breaks down?'

An exploration of War Literature and Dystopian Fiction. Students will focus on an exploration of how humans respond to war through a study of non-fiction, poetry, and prose. The Dystopian fiction focuses on dark futures where corruption and oppression reside over frightening worlds through a variety of short stories and films.

Term 3

Big Question: 'How do writers present different types of relationships?'

Students will study Shakespeare, poetry and non-fiction texts which explore the human need to build relationships. The unit will consider how we reflect on our life experiences and how we define our relationships.

Year 9

Year 9 is a *transition* year allowing students to become fully equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills; offering them every opportunity to become successful at GCSE. They will be exposed to a range of high-level and challenging pieces of literature as well as a multitude of interesting and topical debates.

Term 1

Big Question 'How do writers encourage us to think beyond our own values and beliefs?'

Students will begin the year by investigating how writers express their own values and beliefs through their writing. As human beings we are hardwired for narrative – students explore the power of literature and how it can be a force for social change and political commentary.

Term 2

Big Question: 'How do powerful and disturbed voices give us an insight into the human condition?'

Students will investigate the role and impact of disturbed voices in a range of poetry and modern plays. This unit will explore the themes of morality, honesty, integrity, and consequence. It will spark debate, encourage wider thinking, and allow students to really think about the human condition.

Term 3

Big Question: 'Why are readers fascinated with horror and the supernatural?'

This unit combines elements of the gothic horror genre and the supernatural. An exploration of gothic fiction, which reached its height of popularity in the late 18th to mid-19th centuries; a genre of fiction that focuses on the darker, irrational, more terrifying aspects of life. Students will begin a study of 'Macbeth' in preparation for GCSE. We ask how a writer can compel, frighten and speculate.

