

Year 7 Curriculum

The government have introduced changes to the National Curriculum for English. There is an emphasis on the key skills, and also an emphasis on the use of multi modal texts.

Students in Year 7 can expect to have a **fortnightly library lesson** where they should be reading a book. Sometimes the book will be a class reader, sometimes they will be selecting a book from the list for the unit and sometimes they are making a free choice. Reading should be logged in their books. Their teacher will ask for book reviews and for presentations about what they are reading at different points.

The units the students study are as follows:

Introductory Unit. This will be based around a prose text – it won't matter if they do already know the story as we are using the text to get ideas for reading and writing tasks. Currently the novels are: Holes, Goodnight Mr Tom, The Edge and Boy. Students will revise the basic skills for writing (sentences, paragraphing, punctuation, word classes, subject/verb agreement, spelling) and the developing skills as a reader. This is assessed by a writing task in the middle of the first term.

Quest for the Cursed Chalice. The objective of this unit is to learn to plan, draft, edit and complete an adventure story. They will need to complete some set tasks within the writing (such as writing a letter). This unit has a prize and the best stories from each form are put forward to win the Chalice Trophy! They will also look at adventure and travel writing. The story is assessed for writing according to the National Curriculum, and they also receive a National Curriculum Level for a comprehension.

Introduction to Shakespeare. The students get to get up and be dramatic in this unit! They will look at various extracts from a selection of plays, and will get to perform in front of the class for one of their assessments. They are assessed by a reading task on a set scene. Students will also be involved in a group project about Shakespeare's life and times.

Myths and Legends. In this unit, a selection of Greek myths may be studied, or the teacher may select to look at Beowulf, or the Arthurian legends. This gives some background to many stories and helps students to see where stories have come from. There is a reading assessment for this unit.

Poetry Unit. During this unit, students will study a variety of poetry and learn the poetry terms that describe the techniques used. They will then do a reading assessment on a set poem for a National Curriculum Level. Students will then be encouraged to try a variety of poetry and put together their own anthology. We will be looking to award a prize for the best anthology.

Language and Media. This is a unit where the writing skills gained are reinforced through short tasks. Students look at the way language has developed and the root words for common families. The media part of this will involve looking at the beginning of a popular television programme and identifying that we 'read' images as well as text. This learning is then transferred into a 'superhero' project. The project leads to a reading and writing assessment.

Reading and spelling lists for each unit are on the website.