



English

In Year 9 students begin a foundation year in preparation for their GCSE exams in both English Language and English Literature, two diverse courses. They are introduced to all the skills, assessment focuses and exam criteria required for success in Year 10 and 11. They will also be introduced to texts which they will study for their final GCSE, for example 'Romeo and Juliet', and the Anthology poetry.

The aim is two-fold: firstly to familiarise students with every aspect of the course, including the process of exams, and secondly to work on the development of skills and knowledge required for the two GCSEs.

The programme of study is as follows:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Autumn (1) 7 weeks	Spring (1) 6 weeks	Summer (1) 7 weeks
Of Mice and Men	Romeo and Juliet	Anthology Poetry
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term
Autumn (2) 7.5 weeks	Spring (2) 6 weeks	Summer (2) 6 weeks
English Language Paper 1	Complete Romeo and Juliet Begin Anthology Poetry	Preparation for the Paper 1 Reading Exam

Students can be supported in their preparation for the GCSE through the following tasks:

For all sections of the course, use the VLE.

Study Guides for Romeo and Juliet, Anthology Poetry and the English Language course can be purchased from the Library.

Creative Writing:

- Learning the features of descriptive and narrative writing, and making a poster to display in their bedroom. They could also aid memory by creating a mnemonic;
- Looking outside the window and list four things they can see. For each thing, describing how it looks, sounds, tastes and smells. Writing four sentences, each one beginning with either an adverb, or an adjective, or an exciting and dramatic finite verb (e.g. Whirling across the road, the leaves brushed the tarmac, bruising the cold concrete with the fresh, acrid smell of decomposing life.);
- Practising planning answers to sample questions.
- Practising writing answers in timed conditions;
- Learning punctuation or spelling weaknesses
- Revising semi colons, ellipsis, colons, dashes, commas for subordinate clauses;
- Compiling a list of five simple verbs: e.g. walk, sit, eat, drink, laugh. Then imagining different types of people: a soldier dying on the battlefield in World War 1, a ten year old landmine victim from Afghanistan and a middle aged career woman with four children. They could then use as many words as possible, focusing on the verbs, describe how each of those people would perform each of those verbs. When the list is complete, sharing it with someone else, and seeing if they can add more. The skill in writing descriptively is being able to visualize and empathise with what they are trying to write about.

Anthology Poetry and Short Stories:

- Re-reading the poems and stories adding to annotations made in class
- Researching the poems and poets on the internet
- Making notes on the themes found within the poems (studied in class)
- Buying a CGP Study Guide (ask class teacher for advice)

Of Mice and Men and Romeo and Juliet:

- Re-reading the novel/play
- Watching the film version
- Researching the social and historical background on the internet
- Completing character studies of the main characters
- Making detailed notes on the themes