



## Subject: English

Year Group: 8

### Curriculum Intent:

The English Department at Christ's College is a successful and forward thinking department which is characterised by a strong sense of collaboration and enthusiasm for our subject and our students; always striving to foster within our pupils a love of language and literature.

We aim to develop pupils' ability to communicate effectively in a wide range of contexts; to enable pupils to use accurate Standard English and develop an interest in the richness of the English language in its various forms. We encourage pupils to develop an interest in extending the range of their own language in terms of style, vocabulary, structure and form, providing them with the tools to become engaging and imaginative readers and writers.

We endeavour to develop cultural capital; giving pupils the opportunity to read texts and see plays by contemporary authors and play-writes and also those celebrated within our literary heritage. We strive to offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities and above all else we provide a curriculum which offers a rich and diverse range of learning experiences enabling all pupils to enjoy, embrace and learn the skills needed for their future pathways.

### College Values:

The Christ's College English department's focus is to ensure that all pupils in our school have the opportunity to make greater than expected progress across all Key Stages in the subject of English. When visiting our department, you will see that we uphold and display the vision and ethos of our school and encourage the pupils to embrace our core values: Love, stewardship, cooperation, respect and service.

Following our school behaviour policy, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by respecting and working with their peers; sharing the skills and knowledge they are gifted with and embracing the new skills and knowledge they learn, to gain their full potential.

### Knowledge and Skills:

#### Autumn 1: The Novel

In this module, students will study The Novel: Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, developing their skills of reading for meaning; they will be developing their understanding of how a writer creates mood and atmosphere through a range of language and structural devices and will begin to understand the relationships between text and the context in which the novel was written; 1945, Hitler's Germany.

#### Autumn 2: Gothic Writing

The aim of this module is to introduce students to a range of extracts to learn the conventions of gothic writing. Students will be able to identify and understand the writer's intentions; how they build mood





and atmosphere through a range of language and structural devices, which will enable the students to develop their own creative writing skills whilst at the same time being exposed to our literary heritage and taken on a journey to embed skills and knowledge for the future.

## **Spring 1: War Poetry**

Students are exposed to a range of poetry to explore the theme of 'War and Conflict'. Students will be able to express their personal views, interpretations and opinions on the mood and tone of the poem; identifying the language and structural devices used for effect.

## **Spring 2: Media Project:**

This module is where students are able to develop the art of persuasion through their presentation skills of speaking, listening and writing. They are introduced to a range of skills and terminologies used in advertising, film, music, radio and journalism and complete the module by writing a film review in response to a short movie. Students will also work collaboratively to invent a functional product which they have to pitch their idea, using the media skills and knowledge they have developed, to their intended target audience.

## **Summer 1: Shakespeare**

Through a range of activities, watching and reading extracts of *The Tempest*, students are able to begin to explore the language, structure and form of the play, enabling them to understand meaning and contextual ideas of themes such as: The supernatural, art and culture, contrasting regions, freedom and confinement, man and the natural world, betrayal, compassion, forgiveness and the Divine.

## **Summer 2: The Novel**

In this module, students will study *The Novel: Private Peaceful*, to embed and develop their skills of reading for meaning; they will be developing their understanding of how a writer creates mood and atmosphere through a range of language and structural devices and will begin to understand the relationships between text and the context in which it was written; encompassing many aspects of the British Soldiers in The First World War.

## **Assessment:**

Students will be assessed on the content, spelling, punctuation and grammar during lessons both verbally and summatively with the work they complete. More formal assessments will take place in the form of an end of topic/term assessment and this will be assessed on the learning objective of the module.

Creative and discursive writing will be assessed on Assessment Objectives:

AO5 (Content)

AO6 (Technical Accuracy)

Reading for meaning/understanding will be assessed on Assessment Objectives:

AO1 (Use of textual references, quotations to illustrate interpretations)

AO2 (Analysing language form and structure used by a writer to create meaning and using terminology)

AO3 (Showing an understanding of relationships between texts and the context they were written in)

AO4 (Using a range of vocabulary, sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect with accurate spelling and punctuation).





# Christ's College Guildford

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## Homework:

Each module will be accompanied with a *Spelling Project*; each student will have a spelling book and every two weeks students will be given a list of spellings to learn along with contextual tasks. The spellings are based on a range of vocabulary from the modules being taught to enable all students to develop their knowledge and understanding and therefore, help them make their expected progress.

## Cultural Capital:

Students are encouraged to join and be involved in our extra-curricular activities such as:

1. Exploring other texts, in our Book Club and sharing reviews with the school.
2. Playing with language and entering competitions in our Creative Writing Club.
3. Exploring the world of journalism and media in our Media and Young Journalist workshops.

The department work closely with The Guildford Shakespeare Company, who have brought Shakespeare to our classrooms, presenting performances such as Macbeth with opportunities for students to take part in workshops and question and answer sessions with the actors. This has been invaluable to our students, as it brings the play to life and has given them a broader understanding of the themes, characterisation and context of the play.

