

Curriculum intent statement

ENGLISH

We believe the ability to read, write and speak effectively are the most powerful communication tools in our society and a mastery of these is therefore essential for life. We also particularly value reading as a way of exploring our own and others' thoughts and feelings. The National Curriculum forms the basis for our curriculum at KS3 and 4; in KS5 both A levels use the AQA syllabuses which we believe represent the breadth of texts and topics students should study and which both allow students to follow their own personal interests up independently in an extended study of their own choice. From KS3 up to KS5, students follow a broad and balanced curriculum that is ambitious, engaging and inclusive, allowing all to meet their full potential.

We would in addition like to emphasise the following:

- Literature is a way of exploring the most important elements of human experience and therefore aid students in their spiritual and moral formation: this is particularly important in the light of our faith school's values driven ethos.
- We aim to share and explore texts that represent a diversity of cultures, providing both mirrors and windows into other people's lives.
- Oracy is a powerful tool to further students' ability to think and learn; we put a high priority on extending students' vocabulary and confidence in speaking in a range of contexts.
- We would like to highlight the importance of developing students' abilities to read critically when bombarded with information in our digital age - as such, we think it is important that they experience a range of non-fiction and media texts, both contemporary and from our cultural heritage.