

English Curriculum

The English curriculum at St. Patrick's Catholic College is planned so as to develop curious, independent and critical readers, writers and orators. The intention is to immerse students in high-quality language across a wide range of forms and genres. English teachers within the department seek to enthuse a passion for language and literature amongst their students that will equip them for successful, resilient and happy futures. Years 7 and 8 build upon the language and grammar skills that are taught throughout Key Stage 2 whilst also introducing students to the breadth of texts studied in English at St. Patrick's Catholic College. Both year groups will study units in poetry, prose, writing and Shakespeare. The intention is to immerse students in as broad a range of language in all forms whilst introducing, securing and developing the skills in reading, writing and spoken language required in later years.

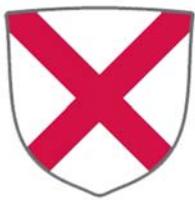
Units are taught throughout an 8-week cycle with the final two weeks of any cycle devoted to assessment and revisiting language skills that students have failed to secure.

Alongside the specific teaching of the texts, each half-term also secures and develops the core language and grammar skills taught in KS2. Each half-term has a focus on a group of grammar skills and these are taught explicitly throughout the unit.

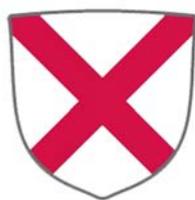
The English department strongly believes that encouraging and nurturing a love of reading is central to successful lifelong learning: it develops a sophisticated vocabulary; a broader cultural capital and an engagement with the wider world that benefits students' social and cultural development alongside equipping them with the skills that will support their learning across the curriculum. In order to support this, the English department has a commitment to structured independent reading through the Accelerated Reading scheme. Students will have a 40 reading lesson each week and reading progress is closely tracked.

Year 9 focuses students on the genres of text that they will be required to study in Year 10 and 11 whilst developing and securing the skills necessary for this Key Stage. There is a specific focus on 19th century fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The themes of the Gothic tradition and isolation are also explored in great detail as these are prevalent in the range of texts studied in Year 10. Whole texts by Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare are core to English Literature study in Year 10 so there is a concentration upon the language, structure and form employed by these writers in Year 9.

In Key Stage 4 we follow the AQA English Language and Literature specifications. English Language skills are taught explicitly in preparation for the exam. Assessment criteria and exam structure are made clear throughout the course and regularly practised in examination conditions. All students are provided with the opportunity to complete GCSE English Literature. This allows students to focus upon prose, drama and poetry from modern times and the nineteenth century. There is also further opportunity for students to address and apply the skills learned in their English Language study.



	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
Year 7	Beowulf	Private Peaceful	Poetry Across Cultures	Writing for Different Audiences and Purposes	Introducing Shakespeare's Comedies
Assessment	Reading: How does the poet make Beowulf seem heroic?	Writing: Write and present a formal speech persuading men to not join up	Reading: Poetry Across Cultures Reading Assessment.	Writing: Portfolio of writing for different purposes and audiences	Reading: Close reading assessment on one of the plays studied. Speaking and Listening: Role-play activity
Year 8	Poetry through the Ages	Novel: Stone Cold	Survival	Creative Writing: Dystopian Futures	Introducing Shakespeare's Tragedies (Macbeth)
Assessment	Compare the work of two poets from the same era drawing out contrasts or similarities in themes, form, style, techniques, language etc.	How do the writers of the two extracts (Stone Cold and Down and Out in Paris and London) describe the problems facing the homeless?	Comparison between two non-fiction texts from different eras	Portfolio of writing for different purposes and audiences.	Close reading assessment on one of the plays studied. Speaking and Listening: Role-play activity



	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6
Year 9	Of Mice and Men	Literary Heritage Poetry	Writing for Different Styles and Audiences (Zombie Apocalypse)	Short Stories in the Gothic Tradition	19th Century Prose: Introducing Charles Dickens	Much Ado About Nothing: KS4 Transition
Assessment	What does Steinbeck show the reader about friendship in Of Mice and Men?	A detailed analytical response to one of the poems in the anthology	A detailed analytical response to one of the poems in the anthology	Comparison between two Gothic stories Speaking and Listening: Role-play activity	Starting with the extract, how does Dickens present Magwitch?	To what extent does an audience present Beatrice as a strong and independent woman? Explore at least two moments in the play that support your answer.
10	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Language Coverage	Bugs	Fight for Freedom	Trapped	All in the Mind	Town and Country	Skills Revision
Assessment	Bugs Assessment paper	Fight for Freedom Assessment Paper	Trapped Assessment Paper	All in the Mind Assessment Paper	Town and Country Assessment Paper	
English Literature Coverage	English Literature Paper 1 Section B A Christmas Carol		English Literature Paper 2 Section A An Inspector Calls/ Blood Brothers		English Literature Paper 1 Section A Shakespeare	
Assessment	A Christmas Carol Literature response		An Inspector Calls/ Blood Brothers Literature response		A Shakespeare Literature response	

11	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Coverage	Past and Present Poetry English Literature Paper 2: Section B	Unseen Poetry English Literature Paper 2: Section C	Revision		Exam	
Assessment	Poetry Literature response	Unseen poetry Literature response				

