



Year 9 English



What have students at St. Crispin's been taught to understand and be able to do?

Core Knowledge

By the start of Year 9, our students have been prepared how to approach sophisticated text analysis and more ambitiously structured writing. It is also a time when we carefully introduce more adult themes into their reading. As young adults who are moving towards greater independence, they rightfully expect to encounter serious issues and we aim to guide them through encounters with the diverse range of opinions that shape the adult world. We aim to teach pupils how to evaluate different sources of information and express their own opinions artfully and in a manner befitting a citizen of the 21st century. For most of the year group, it is expected that basic literacy skills will be securely in place and increasingly, pupils will be applying (to a higher and higher standard) the skills they have already acquired. They will refine these skills in order to meet the needs of specific contexts, including formal assessment.

Core Skills

- **Writing with skill and accuracy** is a constant focus. Pupils continue to work on key vocabulary lists and glossaries in each unit of work. They should now be in the habit of using new vocabulary in their own creative writing and in the analysis of texts. Spelling and punctuation skills are reinforced throughout Year 9, with specific revision of relevant skills prior to assessment. Targeted feedback is given to address any areas which students find more challenging
- **Reading for pleasure** allows pupils to select private reading books. We encourage them to be more and more ambitious. Private reading is encouraged and monitored at the start of each lesson. Class readers such as *Of Mice and Men* introduce the students to social and political issues of the time that remain of relevance today
- **Reading classic English Literary texts** pupils focus on famous Gothic texts such as *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*. They will be shown how to cope with the challenges of older texts
- **Reading texts that explore diversity** through biographies, speeches and poetry from different cultures
- **Poetry is read and written** with an emphasis on comparison. Students study war poetry and explore the continued impact it has
- **Non-fiction texts are read and written** with an emphasis on differing perspectives allowing the exploration of cultural diversity and equality.



Year 9 English continued



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Core Skills

- **Creative writing** focuses on short stories and descriptions of setting and character. Pupils will learn to appreciate settings, character, flashbacks and narrative perspective as they read a range of short stories and are given opportunities to write their own
- **Speaking and listening** skills are practised, with an emphasis on the idea of providing a convincing account of one's opinion on a matter that is likely to be disputed. Students will learn strategies to improve the writing and delivery of their ideas through the choice of formal register, appropriate rhetorical strategies and effective rehearsal.

How has learning been assessed?

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways e.g. verbally through questioning in class, through multiple choice quizzes, comprehension questions, short written responses and formal assessments. Some assessments will be through differentiated GCSE-style tasks that being to acclimatize pupils to the demands for Year 10 and beyond. At the end of Year 9, students will sit a short, GCSE style examination in public examination conditions. They will be fully prepared for this in class.

What is coming up in the following year?

Students will embark on their GCSE courses. They will follow the AQA specification for both Language and Literature. A range of non-fiction texts as well as literary texts such as, *An Inspector Calls*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Macbeth* will be studied.