



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

### Core Knowledge

Every student enters Year 7 with a unique experience of literacy development. The English curriculum at Key Stage 3 is designed to ensure that pupils of all abilities are inspired to enjoy reading, writing, speaking and listening at a high standard. We also aim to develop these skills for each child by presenting them with challenges at a steadily increasing level, so that they grow in confidence and acquire the necessary independence to succeed at Key Stage 4. Pupils are taught in sets to allow teachers to adapt the level of challenge to suit the needs of their group.

It is essential that pupils are encouraged to enjoy the many aspects of English and develop attitudes to literacy that will ensure the lifelong love of language which leads to success in adulthood. In Year 7, most pupils will still be developing their comprehension and inference skills and learning to use technical terms to identify different texts and their features. Some will be able to go further, explaining writers' choices and selecting specific techniques to use for themselves.

### Core Skills

- **Writing with skill and accuracy** is a constant focus. Pupils develop their vocabulary through regular word lists which are designed to equip them with the ability to express more sophisticated ideas. They are encouraged to write in increasingly ambitious ways. Spelling and punctuation skills are reinforced throughout year seven, with specific revision of relevant skills prior to assessment
- **Reading for pleasure** is encouraged through regular visits to the school library and are guided to select private reading books that lead them to be more and more ambitious. Private reading is encouraged, monitored and rewarded in a range of ways, including the Accelerated Reader app. Class readers such as *A Series of Unfortunate Events* are selected to inspire children's enjoyment of reading aloud
- **Reading classic English Literary texts** pupils will have opportunities to read famous texts from our literary history, such as *Beowulf*. They will be shown how to cope with the challenges of older texts
- **Reading texts to explore diversity** such as *Greek Myths* and *The Refugee Tales*
- **Poetry is read and written** with an emphasis on epic poetry
- **Pupils will write and respond** to poetry in a supportive environment as they learn about its features
- **Non-fiction texts are read and written** with an emphasis on the conventions of different text types, such as articles or letters
- **Creative writing** has an emphasis on the origins of storytelling focusing upon character, plot and setting.



## Year 7 English continued



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- **Shakespeare** is read and performed by pupils. A range of activities will allow them to learn about the international cultural importance of Shakespeare and the way he engages and entertain audiences
- **Speaking and listening** skills are developed with an emphasis on group presentations, allowing pupils to support each other and express their ideas in a controlled and effective way.

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 completed in class that are accessible and proportionate to year seven pupils' level of maturity. Tasks are 'scaffolded' as necessary and pupils will complete them in a supportive environment. Assessments will only be set after students have been taught the knowledge and skills needed to complete them successfully.

What is coming up in the following year?

Sonnets – from Petrarch to Duffy, The Art of Rhetoric, The Tragic Genre, The Romantic Movement and The Modern Novel.