

# KS3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE COURSE HANDBOOK

2020

# Useful revision sites:

https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/z3kw2hv

https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/english/

http://www.english-zone.com/reading/dolphins1.html

https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/100-best-books/

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/50-books-all-kids-should-read-before-theyre-12

https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/

https://www.theguardian.com/books/2011/oct/23/recommended-reads-children-13-plus

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of children%27s classic books

http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/genre/gr8/Books-for-Boys.html

https://bookzone.boyslife.org/100-books-for-boys/

http://www.independent.co.uk/extras/indybest/kids/best-books-for-8-to-12-year-olds-boys-girls-uk-to-read-a7384691.html



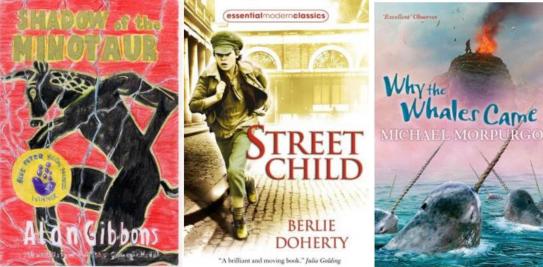
The expectation of the new English curriculum at KS3 is that pupils should be able to speak and write fluently and improve their communication skills through reading and listening.

# **READING:**

Reading at KS3 should be wide, varied and challenging, with pupils making critical comparisons across texts. Pupils are expected to read whole books, to read in depth and to read for pleasure and information. For the more advanced students, there should be the opportunities for increased breadth and depth in reading.

Reading should cover a wide range of fiction and non-fiction, including in particular whole books, short stories, poems and plays with a wide coverage of genres, historical periods, forms and authors.







# SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR KS3:

| Title                             | Author                             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Classic titles                    |                                    |
| Little Women                      | Louise May Alcott                  |
| Pride and Prejudice               | Jane Austen                        |
| Northanger Abbey                  | Jane Austen                        |
| Sense and Sensibility             | Jane Austen                        |
| The Coral Island                  | R.M.Ballantyne                     |
| Wuthering Heights                 | Emily Bronte                       |
| The Secret Garden                 | F.H Burnett                        |
| Robinson Crusoe                   | Daniel Defoe                       |
| David Copperfield                 | Charles Dickens                    |
| The Pickwick Papers               | Charles Dickens                    |
| Great Expectations                | Charles Dickens                    |
| <u>Oliver Twist</u>               | Charles Dickens                    |
| The Hound of the Baskervilles     | Sir Arthur Conan Doyle             |
| The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes | Sir Arthur Conan Doyle             |
| The Count of Monte Cristo         | Alexandre Dumas                    |
| The History of Tom Jones          | Henry Fielding                     |
| The Wind in the Willows           | Kenneth Grahame                    |
| The Jungle Book                   | Rudyard Kipling                    |
| Anne of Green Gables              | L.M. Montgomery                    |
| Anne of Avonlea                   | L.M. Montgomery                    |
| The Railway Children              | E. Nesbit                          |
| Ivanhoe                           | Sir Walter Scott                   |
| Black Beauty                      | Anna Sewell                        |
| School for Scandal                | Richard Brinsley Sheridan          |
| Heidi                             | Johanna Spyri                      |
| Tristram Shandy                   | Laurence Sterne                    |
| Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde           | R.L. Stevenson                     |
| Treasure Island                   | R.L. Stevenson                     |
| Dracula                           | Bram Stoker                        |
| 20,000 Leagues under the Sea      | Jules Verne                        |
| William Shakespeare               |                                    |
| King Richard III                  | Much Ado About Nothing             |
| Macbeth                           | Romeo and Juliet                   |
| The Merchant of Venice            | The Tempest                        |
| A Midsummer Night's Dream         |                                    |
| Poets                             |                                    |
| Simon Armitage                    | Kathleen Jamie                     |
| William Blake                     | Philip Larkin                      |
| Robert Browning                   | Roger McGough                      |
| John Clare                        | Edwin Morgan                       |
| T.S. Eliot                        | Wilfred Owen                       |
| Lavinia Greenlaw                  | Alexander Pope                     |
| Seamus Heaney                     | Derek Walcott                      |
| Ted Hughes                        | WB Yeats                           |
| Seminal World Literature          |                                    |
| Where I Belong                    | Gillian Cross <sup>c</sup>         |
| The Great Gatsby                  | F. Scott Fitzgerald                |
| Coram Boy                         | Jamila Gavin                       |
| The Conservationist               | Nadine Gordimer                    |
| The Hunchback of Notre Dame       | Victor Hugo                        |
| <u>Ulysses</u>                    | James Joyce                        |
| The Middle of Nowhere             | Geraldine McCaughrean <sup>c</sup> |
| Tamburlaine's Elephants           | Geraldine McCaughrean <sup>c</sup> |
| Sun Time Snow Time (Poems)        | Grace Nichols                      |
| <u>·</u>                          |                                    |

| Title                                       | Author                                       |
|---|--|
| History                                     |  |
| The Jade Boy                                | Cate Cain <sup>c</sup>                       |
|   | H.M. Castor <sup>c</sup>                     |
| Al Capone Does My Shirts                    | Gennifer Choldenko <sup>c</sup>              |
| The Broken Road                             | B.R. Collins <sup>c</sup>                    |
| Annexed                                     | Sharon Dogar <sup>c</sup>                    |
| Treason                                     | Berlie Doherty <sup>c</sup>                  |
| Auslander                                   | Paul Dowsell c                               |
| Eleven Eleven                               | Paul Dowsell <sup>c</sup>                    |
| Troubadour                                  | Mary Hoffman <sup>c</sup>                    |
| Fallen Grace                                | Mary Hooper <sup>c</sup>                     |
| The Remarkable Life and                     | Name Hannen <sup>C</sup>                     |
| Times of Eliza Rose                         | Mary Hooper <sup>c</sup>                     |
| Velvet                                      | Mary Hooper                                  |
| The Girl in the Mask                        | Mary-Louise Jenson <sup>c</sup>              |
| After You've Gone                           | Joan Lingard                                 |
| The Call of the Wild                        | Jack London                                  |
| Just Henry                                  | Michelle Magorian <sup>c</sup>               |
| Run Rabbit Run                              | Barbara Mitchelhill <sup>c</sup>             |
| War Horse                                   | Michael Morpurgo <sup>c</sup>                |
| The English Patient                         | Michael Ondaatje                             |
| Song Hunter                                 | Sally Prue <sup>c</sup>                      |
| Sovay                                       | Celia Rees <sup>c</sup>                      |
| Witch Child                                 | Celia Rees                                   |
| Sword of Light                              | Katherine Roberts <sup>c</sup>               |
| The Eagle of the Ninth                      | Rosemary Sutcliffe                           |
| A World Between Us                          | Lydia Syson <sup>c</sup>                     |
| Out of Shadows                              | Jason Wallace <sup>c</sup>                   |
| Code Name Verity                            | Elizabeth Wein <sup>c</sup>                  |
| Rose Under Fire                             | Elizabeth Wein <sup>c</sup>                  |
| Crime/Thriller/Horror                       |  |
| Pastworld                                   | lan Beck <sup>c</sup>                        |
| Drive By                                    | Jim Carrington                               |
| Buried Thunder                              | Tim Bowler <sup>c</sup>                      |
| Finding Jennifer Jones                      | Anne Cassidy <sup>c</sup>                    |
| Tyme's End                                  | B.R. Collins <sup>c</sup>                    |
| Say Her Name                                | James Dawson <sup>c</sup>                    |
| Ways to See a Ghost                         | Emily Diamond <sup>c</sup>                   |
| The Everest Files                           | Matt Dickinson <sup>c</sup>                  |
| The Company of Ghosts                       | Berlie Doherty <sup>c</sup>                  |
| Mind Blind                                  | Lari Don <sup>c</sup>                        |
| Sektion 20                                  | Paul Dowswell <sup>c</sup>                   |
| Twelve Minutes to Midnight                  | Christopher Edge                             |
| The Graveyard Book                          | Neil Gaiman <sup>c</sup>                     |
|   | Emma Haughton <sup>c</sup>                   |
| <u>Now You See Me</u><br>Constable and Toop | Gareth P. Jones <sup>c</sup>                 |
|   | Gareth P. Jones<br>Gemma Malley <sup>c</sup> |
| The Returners                               |  |
| Mortlock<br>Street Duty Kneck Down          | Jon Mayhew                                   |
| Street Duty: Knock Down                     | Chris Ould                                   |
| Crossing the Line                           | Gillian Philip <sup>c</sup>                  |
| Mister. Creecher                            | Chris Priestley <sup>c</sup>                 |
| The Dead of Winter                          | Chris Priestley <sup>c</sup>                 |
| Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror            | Chris Priestley <sup>c</sup>                 |
| This is Not Forgiveness                     | Celia Rees <sup>c</sup>                      |
| Among the Hoods                             | Harriet Sergeant                             |
| <u>The Savages</u>                          | Matt Whyman <sup>c</sup>                     |

| Title                             | Author                             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| The Night Run                     | Bali Rai                           |
| Gulliver's Travels                | Jonathan Swift                     |
| The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn | Mark Twain                         |
| The Adventure of Tom Sawyer       | Mark Twain                         |
| Around the World in 80 Days       | Jules Verne                        |
| Refugee Boy                       | Benjamin Zepheniah                 |
| Books for 14+ Readers             |                                    |
| All the Truth That's In Me        | Julie Berry <sup>c</sup>           |
| Bloodtide                         | Melvyn Burgess                     |
| Winter Damage                     | Natasha Carthew <sup>c</sup>       |
| Dead Time                         | Anne Cassidy <sup>c</sup>          |
| The Ghost Bride                   | Yangsze Choo <sup>c</sup>          |
| Apple and Rain                    | Sarah Crossan <sup>c</sup>         |
| Breathe                           | Sarah Crossan <sup>c</sup>         |
| Boys Don't Knit                   | T.S. Easton <sup>c</sup>           |
| The Things We Did For Love        | Natasha Farrant <sup>c</sup>       |
| Maggot Moon                       | Sally Gardner <sup>c</sup>         |
| Hostage Three                     | Nick Lake <sup>c</sup>             |
| In Darkness                       | Nick Lake <sup>c</sup>             |
| We Were Liars                     | E. Lockhart <sup>c</sup>           |
| Throne of Glass                   | Sarah J Maas                       |
| Red Ink                           | Julie Mayhew <sup>c</sup>          |
| <u>Ferryman</u>                   | Claire McFall <sup>c</sup>         |
| <u>The Fool's Girl</u>            | Celia Rees <sup>c</sup>            |
| The Cloud Hunters                 | Alex Shearer <sup>c</sup>          |
| Out of Shadows                    | Jason Wallace <sup>c</sup>         |
| Mystery/Adventure/Action          |                                    |
| Tarzan: The Greystoke Legacy      | Andy Briggs                        |
| The Girl Who Walks On Air         | Emma Carroll <sup>c</sup>          |
| Mortal Chaos                      | Matt Dickinson <sup>c</sup>        |
| Monkey and Me                     | David Gilman <sup>c</sup>          |
| Lord of the Flies                 | William Golding                    |
| Paper Towns                       | John Green                         |
| <u>Sky Hawk</u>                   | Gill Lewis <sup>c</sup>            |
| The Accidental Time Traveller     | Janice Mackay                      |
| The White Darkness                | Geraldine McCaughrean <sup>c</sup> |
| Tall Tales from Pitch End         | Nigel McDowell <sup>c</sup>        |
| The Apothecary                    | Maile Meloy <sup>c</sup>           |
| The River Singers                 | Tom Moorhouse <sup>c</sup>         |
| Rooftoppers                       | Katherine Rundell <sup>c</sup>     |
| Holes                             | Louis Sachar                       |
| <u>Tanglewreck</u>                | Jeanette Winterson <sup>c</sup>    |
| Short Stories                     |                                    |
| Lone Wolf                         | Alan Gibbons                       |
| <u>Gladiator</u>                  | Alan Gibbons                       |
| <u>Spies</u>                      | Mike Gould                         |
| Point Danger                      | Cathy MacPhail                     |
| The Ice Man                       | Alan Parkinson                     |
| Liam                              | Benjamin Zephaniah                 |

| Title                                 | Author                                     |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Fantasy/Sci-fi                        | Addition                                   |
| Hollow Earth                          | John and Carol Barrowman                   |
| The Claws of Evil                     | Andrew Beasley <sup>c</sup>                |
| Sorrowline                            | Niel Bushnell                              |
| Gamerunner                            | B.R. Collins                               |
| The Traitor Game                      | B.R. Collins <sup>c</sup>                  |
| The Great Unexpected                  | Sharon Creech <sup>c</sup>                 |
| Unfinished Angel                      | Sharon Creech <sup>c</sup>                 |
| After Tomorrow                        | Gillian Cross <sup>c</sup>                 |
| Fortunately the Milk                  | Neil Gaiman <sup>c</sup>                   |
| The Little White Horse                | Elizabeth Goudge <sup>c</sup>              |
| Stravaganza (series)                  | Mary Hoffman                               |
| Underworld                            | Cathy MacPhail                             |
| The Declaration                       | Gemma Malley <sup>c</sup>                  |
| Tom's Midnight Garden                 | Phillipa Pearce <sup>c</sup>               |
| Burn Mark                             | Laura Powell <sup>c</sup>                  |
| Larklight Trilogy                     | Philip Reeve                               |
| <u>Magyk</u>                          | Angie Sage                                 |
| The Bone Season                       | Samantha Shannon                           |
| Wishful Thinking                      | Ali Sparkes <sup>c</sup>                   |
| <u>The Wall</u>                       | William Sutcliffe <sup>c</sup>             |
| <u>Shadowmancer</u>                   | G.P. Taylor                                |
| <u>Angel</u>                          | L.A. Weatherly                             |
| The Battle of the Sun                 | Jeanette Winterson <sup>c</sup>            |
| Family/Real Life Issues/Coming        |  |
| <u>River Boy</u>                      | Tim Bowler <sup>c</sup>                    |
| Walking Naked                         | Alyssa Brugman                             |
| We Can Be Heroes                      | Catherine Bruton <sup>c</sup>              |
| Anthem for Jackson Dawes              | Celia Bryce <sup>c</sup>                   |
| Swim the Fly                          | Don Calame                                 |
| How Kirsty Jenkins Stole The Elephant | Elen Caldecott                             |
| Searching for Sky                     | Jillian Cantor <sup>c</sup>                |
| Inside my Head                        | Jim Carrington <sup>c</sup>                |
| The Boy on the Porch                  | Sharon Creech <sup>c</sup>                 |
| The Weight of Water                   | Sarah Crossan                              |
| After Iris                            | Natasha Farrant<br>G.R. Gemin <sup>c</sup> |
| <u>Cowgirl</u>                        |  |
| <u>Whisper</u>                        | Chrissie Keighery                          |
| <u>Butter</u><br>Everybody Jam        | Erin Lange<br>Ali Lewis <sup>c</sup>       |
| Roxy's Baby                           | Cathy MacPhail <sup>c</sup>                |
| The Cardturner                        | Louis Sachar <sup>c</sup>                  |
| Liar and Spy                          | Rebecca Stead <sup>c</sup>                 |
| Don't Pick on Me                      | Rosemary Stones                            |
| <u>A Boy Called Hope</u>              | Lara Williamson                            |
| The Lucy Variations                   | Sarah Zarr                                 |
|                                       | Jaidii Zdii                                |

\_<sup>c</sup> (Carnegie nominated authors)

# WRITING:

#### SENTENCE TYPES

<u>Simple</u>: contains a subject and a verb and can contain an object. e.g. Polly likes to snooze in the sun.

<u>Compound</u>: joins two simple sentences using the connectives: *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, *so* e.g. Polly like to snooze in the sun but she doesn't like the rain.

<u>Complex</u>: has a main clause and a subordinate clause e.g. Polly likes to snooze in the sun which makes her dribble with delight.

#### PARAGRAPHS

The TIPTOP rule:

You move onto a new paragraph when you change <u>ti</u>me, <u>pl</u>ace, <u>to</u>pic or <u>person</u>.

#### CONNECTIVES

Remember to make your writing more *sophisticated* by using a range of connectives. Check the other side of this mat!

#### SPELLING STRATEGIES

- Sound out the word
- Think about how it looks
- · Think about a similar word
- Is there a memory sentence for this word? (e.g. big elephants cannot always use small exits)
- Look it up in a dictionary
- To learn it: look, say, cover, write, check

# **SPEAKING:**

### ORACY: Giving your opinion

I

In my opinion...

I agree with that point because ...

I believe/do not believe...

l think... To me,....

feel...

We discussed this and came to the

conclusion that...

I agree what you're saying and would

like to add...

l feel...

Some people think..., but I think...

#### WORD CLASSES - Learn us!

NOUN - these can be the name of a person, place or thing e.g. I have a pet *cat*.

PRONOUN -these are used in place of nouns e.g. Polly ate *her* breakfast.

VERE - these express an action, state or condition in a sentence e.g. Polly *sat* on the mat.

ADJECTIVE - these are words that describe nouns e.g. Polly's fur is *silky*.

ADVERE - these qualify or modify verbs, adjectives or other adverbs e.g. Polly climbed the tree *carefully*.

**PREPOSITION** - these show a relationship between a noun or a pronoun and the rest of a sentence e.g. Polly sat *on* the mat.

**CONJUNCTION** - these join words, phrases and sentences together e.g. Polly can be naughty but I love her anyway.

INTERJECTION - these are words that express surprise, delight and other emotions e.g. *Wow*!

#### STYLE

<u>Purpose</u>: Why are you writing? <u>Audience</u>: Who is your writing aimed at? <u>Layout</u>: What are you writing?

ORACY: Disagreeing with someone That is an interesting idea; however,.... I cannot agree with that because... I do not think that's a good idea because...

I am not sure I can agree with your argument because...

I see this a different way because...

I appreciate what you're saying but...

Your point is valid, though it could

- be argued that...
- l disagree because...

#### ORACY: Questions to ask

What do you think about...? Why? Why not? Are there any other points we should consider? What are the positives...? Why do you think that...? Would anyone like to add their opinion? Can you explain your opinion more clearly? Can you clarify what you mean? Would you reiterate please? So w

? Do you like...? der? Do you agree? How would that work? Can we all agree that...? Ought we to consider...? Why? Do you think that...? So what you're saying / suggesting is...?

| PUNCTUATION         |    |  |  |
|---------------------|----|--|--|
| FULL STOP           | -  | indicates that a<br>sentence is<br>finished                            |  |
| QUESTION<br>MARK    | ?  | goes at the end<br>of a question.<br>Always.                           |  |
| EXCLAMATION<br>MARK | ļ  | goes at the end<br>of a sentence to<br>indicate emotion                |  |
| СОММА               | ,  | indicates a slight<br>pause, separates<br>clauses and<br>items in list |  |
| APOSTROPHE          | ,  | indicates<br>possession or<br>omission                                 |  |
| COLON               | :  | introduces a list<br>or a significant<br>word/statement                |  |
| SEMICOLON           | ;  | Separates two<br>independent, but<br>related, clauses<br>in a sentence |  |
| BRACKETS            | () | Separates info   |  |
| DASH                | -  | from the main<br>clause by holding<br>words apart                      |  |
| ELLIPSIS            |    | Shows passage of<br>time or adds<br>suspense                           |  |
| SPEECH<br>MARKS     | "" | Indicates what is<br>being said  |  |

| Conn                  | ectives             |  |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
|                       | iencing             |  |
| Firstly,              | Previously,         |  |
| Subsequently.         | Finally,            |  |
|                       |                     |  |
|                       | trating             |  |
| such as               | For example,        |  |
| For instance,         | This is illustrated |  |
|                       | by                  |  |
| Ad                    | lding               |  |
| Moreover              | Furthermore,        |  |
| In addition,          | Also,               |  |
| and substational loss | A00,                |  |
| Com                   | paring              |  |
| Similarly,            | Likewise,           |  |
| In the same way,,     |                     |  |
| Contrasting           |                     |  |
| On the other hand     |                     |  |
| Alternatively,        |                     |  |
| Atternativety         | in conclusions      |  |
| Emphasising           |                     |  |
| Surely                | Seriously           |  |
| Evidently             | Unquestionably      |  |
|                       |                     |  |
| Concluding            |                     |  |
| Therefore,            | In conclusion,      |  |
| As a results,         | Consequently,,,,,,  |  |

# **General Spelling List**

The following list of spellings was compiled by a number of secondary schools which all identified the following words as commonly misspelled among this age group.

|                  | au i dan aa         | necession     |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| accommodation    | evidence            | possession    |
| actually         | explanation         | potential     |
| alcohol          | February            | preparation   |
| although         | fierce              | prioritise    |
| analyse/analysis | forty               | process       |
| argument         | fulfil              | proportion    |
| assessment       | furthermore         | proposition   |
| atmosphere       | guard               | questionnaire |
| audible          | happened            | queue         |
| audience         | health              | reaction      |
| autumn           | height              | receive       |
| beautiful        | imaginary           | reference     |
| beginning        | improvise           | relief        |
| believe          | industrial          | remember      |
| beneath          | interesting         | research      |
| buried           | interrupt           | resources     |
| business         | issue               | safety        |
| caught           | jealous             | Saturday      |
| chocolate        | knowledge           | secondary     |
| climb            | listening           | separate      |
| column           | lonely              | sequence      |
| concentration    | lovely              | shoulder      |
| conclusion       | marriage            | sincerely     |
| conscience       | material            | skilful       |
| conscious        | meanwhile           | soldier       |
| consequence      | miscellaneous       | stomach       |
| continuous       | mischief            | straight      |
| creation         | modern              | strategy      |
| daughter         | moreover            | strength      |
| decide/decision  | murmur              | success       |
| definite         | necessary           | surely        |
| design           | nervous             | surprise      |
| development      | original            | survey        |
| diamond          | outrageous          | technique     |
| diary            | parallel            | technology    |
| disappear        | participation       | texture       |
| disappoint       | pattern             | tomorrow      |
| embarrass        | peaceful            | unfortunately |
| energy           | people              | Wednesday     |
| engagement       | performance         | weight        |
| enquire          | permanent           | weird         |
| environment      | persuade/persuasion | women         |
| evaluation       | physical            |               |
|                  | p11,01001           |               |

# Common homophones and confusions

- a lot/allot advise/advice affect/effect allowed/aloud bought/brought braking/breaking
- choose/chose cloth/clothe conscience/conscious course/coarse our/are practise/practice
- quiet/quite sites/sights source/sauce threw/through to/too/two

# Schemes of Learning in Year 7:

# 1 - Beauty and the Beast

A transition scheme designed to deal with issues that may arise in the transition to high school. We ask students to consider their attitudes towards themselves – their identity - and growing up. With a focus on beauty, appearance, vanity and the role these ideas play in society, students are encouraged to think more deeply about how people behave and why.

# 2 - Choose Your Own Adventure Story

Teachers will cater lessons/genres of stories to each class's tastes and interests. The focus during this scheme of learning is on decision making, actions and consequences, risk taking, cause and effect and morality.

# 3 - Back to the Future/Visions of 2020

Here, we wanted to make the most of the significance of the time period that the students are living through. We want to help them to understand the importance of 2020 and appreciate the speculation there has been, for many decades, about what this 'future' would look like. We will consider how the view of the future has changed throughout history and why it has done so. There will be lots of opportunities to explore a range of texts, including popular culture such as film and television. Students will also be asked to investigate the views and opinions of those around them who have grown up in different eras.

# <u>Assessment</u>

In Y7, students will complete three formal assessments - one at the end of each Scheme of Learning. They will also complete three informal assessments. (Altogether - 2 x Reading, 2 x Writing, 2 x Oracy) All of these will be marked and filed in their portfolio, which is kept through to the end of Y8. Although the assessments will help us to make decisions about the levels the students are working at, primarily, they are designed to get students familiar and comfortable with the practice of formal testing. Largely, the levels they are given for each report will be based on their performance in lessons and evidence in their exercise books. In their reports, students will be graded on Attitude, Classwork, Homework, Behaviour and Organisation. They will be given levels internally from the English department, but these will not be shown on the report. These will be based on our own system designed to help us, as teachers, understand where the students are and what they require from us.

# Schemes of Learning in Year 8:

1 - **Use it or Lose it**: Students spend the first week with us working on activities designed to recap and revise the advanced grammar skills they spent so long working on in primary school for their Y6 exams. It is our feeling that we must help the students to hold onto and revise this knowledge, as it is invaluable to their continued studies. This also gives students and teachers a chance to get to know one another. This is not formally assessed.

2 – **Narrative**: Students are taught the conventions of narrative writing and taught a number of creative language techniques that can be used to make their work more engaging. There is a focus on SPAG skills.

3 – **Comparing Articles** and article writing: This scheme focuses on reading, understanding, critically analysing articles and comparing the ideas in pairs of articles. During this scheme, some time will be given over to writing their own articles.

4 – Novel and **Letter Writing**: As a class, students will read a full novel and learn how to understand, analyse and write critically about their ideas. This year we are focusing on texts that could be considered part of the literary canon in an effort to boost students' cultural capital. The need for this has become increasingly clear in light of the unseen texts which have been part of the new GCSE paper. Alongside their study of the text, students will focus on letter writing skills and will be assessed on this overall.

5 – **Shakespeare** and Speech: Finally, students move onto the most challenged of the schemes. They will hone their critical analysis skills and ability to write in a sophisticated, academic manner about their ideas. Within this scheme, the conventions of a speech will be taught and demonstrated in a manner that complements the text they are focusing on.

# **Assessment**

In Y8, students will complete four formal assessments: one at the end of each Scheme of Learning. They will also be graded informally, in their exercise books on the secondary skills taught within each section of study. This allows us to closely monitor students' progress across a range of skills. Assessments are completed in the classroom, in exam conditions. GCSE mark schemes are used to assess the students' work. This is logical, as their target grades are also set in these terms. It allows students to see, right from Y7, the progress they are making towards their final GCSE outcome.

# Accelerated Reader

The academy is fortunate enough to be able to offer the Accelerated Reader scheme to our students. Y7 and Y8s should all have an A5 booklet in which they complete their fortnightly AR homework and all work during their fortnightly AR lesson. It is essential that your child understands that although they must complete the AR homework before each lesson, this does not mean they will be penalised if they have not read. **If your child is unclear about this, please ask them to discuss it with their teacher.** Students are encouraged to read regularly.

# Homework

As well as their AR homework, all KS3 students will be asked to complete a weekly homework from their Novel Writing Workbook (details below). Beyond this, teachers are encouraged to avoid additional homework. However, where there is the opportunity to extend a piece of work outside of the classroom, students will be given the *option* to do so. Those choosing to will be rewarded by their teachers (as opposed to being punished for not completing the work).

# **Novel Writing Homework**

We are very excited to offer all KS3 students the opportunity to be guided through writing their very own, full-length novel. They will be given a booklet and expected to complete one task each week. In this way, the whole process of writing a novel will be broken down into manageable chunks. There will be novel writing workshops offered afterschool and celebration events at the end of the year. We are hoping that this will be a valuable process for the students. It will demonstrate the enormous achievements they are capable of if they are persistent. It will teach them resilience and help them to understand that every impossible task is made up of one small, manageable task after another. If any parents would like to join their children in this process, please let us know and we will provide you with your own booklet.

