

## Statement of Intent - English

*"Great books help you understand, and they help you to feel understood" John Green*

In English, our curriculum is designed to explore, rationalise and instil a lifelong reminder of our Academy vision of *'Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope.'* Pivotal to our curriculum is the importance of voice: through both the impact that writers bygone and current have on our understanding of society, to the value we place on each individual student's expression through their written and spoken command of the language. We hope that through the stories and accounts of novelists, poets, dramatists and inspirational writers, students will resonate with the resilience, courage and determination these writers strove for in their pursuit of a society that will *'Live well together.'*

Students are exposed to the rich heritage of literature that both Britain and the world possess; both fiction and non-fiction from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day is critiqued, debated and analysed to enable students to explore the triumphs we as a global community have achieved, and the areas in which their voices can contribute to change. We hope that through an exploration of the inspiring writers on our curriculum, students will have hope and faith that the world around them can change. Central to the philosophy behind our curriculum is the belief that by empowering our students to reflect upon society, challenge ideas and formulate knowledge-based answers, they can live a life of dignity on the path of great authors who precede them.

To ensure that all of our students can access the world-widening impact of English Language and Literature, we will ensure that our pupil premium budget is spent on providing access to novels, plays and non-fiction covered in our inspirational modules. Furthermore, extra-curricular trips to see live literature – from Shakespeare and Dickens to creative writing focus workshops, will ensure that our students are given the cultural capital to develop them as well-rounded individuals. Within lessons support scaffolds, amendment of assessments and differentiated work booklets are provided to ensure that each and every one of our students, SEND, PP or High Achievers, not only progress but are able to reach their full potential. All of our students are provided with satellite reading lists which encourage them to engage with a multiplicity of genres (from Shakespeare, to poetry, to non-fiction) to extend their learning outside of the classroom. The reading lists additionally encourage our High Attainers to fulfil their potential by encouraging them to read more widely around the topics they are studying. The pupil premium budget enables us to purchase multiple copies of these texts to distribute to students from the Academy library.

At Key Stage 2, many of our students arrive with a superficial knowledge (identification with limited analysis) of the linguistic and grammatical foundation of English. Across Key Stage 3, we ensure that these foundations are solidified for KS4 and life beyond. In Year 7, students are assessed on their written command of the language to ensure that both adequate provision can be provided for students requiring intervention, and to identify students who need stretch and challenge activities. Through a passionate invigoration of the linguistic, grammatical and structural choices made by writers - alongside their social motivations, students leave All Saints instilled with the ethos that *'Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope'* creates a better world for us all.

## **Year 7**

### **Substantive Knowledge**

In their first year of KS3, students begin with a novel study of *Skyhawk*, evaluating characterisation, descriptive devices and structural choices made by the author. Students then move onto creative writing using their informed understanding of figurative language to create original plots. In the spring term, the impact of society on the written and spoken word is explored through a study of the themes of adventure and exploration in non-fiction texts across the 19th and 20th centuries. Students explore how people have lived with and without dignity across these periods before producing their own speaking and listening pieces employing a range of rhetorical devices. Students then analyse the depiction of London in 19th century poetry. Finally, in the summer term students study Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* before they finish the year with an ambitious unit covering Myths and Legends from the Greek and Roman eras.

### **Substantive Knowledge for Literacy Lessons**

The curriculum for Year 7 is designed for students to have three English lessons (covering the disciplinary content above) and one literacy focussed lesson in which students practise their spelling, punctuation and grammar. Due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic over the last two years, the literacy lessons are designed to ensure there are no gaps in the students' foundation knowledge in Key Stage 2 literacy. Students will revisit word classification (adjectives, nouns, prepositional phrases, verbs); basic punctuation rules (capital letters, full stops, commas, apostrophes and paragraphing) alongside completing 10 key spellings each week (comprised of topic specific vocabulary and commonly misspelled words). Once we have covered the basic foundation of English grammar in the lessons, we will then focus on reading comprehension, inference and 'big writes' to ensure that each student can apply accurate grammar choices to their work.

### **Disciplinary knowledge**

In their first year of Key Stage 3, students learn how to analyse both descriptive and individual lexical choices made by writers beyond superficial identification of techniques. Teaching both the denotive and connotative ideas behind authorial methods, students are able to develop their analysis into fully explorative paragraphs. Furthermore, students consider the structural choices made by writers in poems, non-fiction and novels to consider the cyclical and cohesive links chosen by authors to engage their audience. Students are then able to consider their own grammatical, descriptive and rhetorical choices in their own writing to sustain their engagement of a reader/audience. Finally, Shakespearean dramatic techniques are refined to enable students to combine lexical and metaphorical devices with the form of a 5-act play.

After the AP1 exams in November 2023, the whole year group will spend some time in December filling the gaps in their knowledge. These gaps are ascertained from the Question by Question analysis documents which are used by all staff. The gaps in December 2023 were:

- Using relevant and appropriate quotes to support points, arguments and ideas.
- Identifying and analysing the writer's techniques within key quotes from a text.
- Commenting on the writer's intended effects, particularly in terms of characterisation.

- Evaluating how successfully a writer presents a theme or character within an extract.

## **Year 8**

### **Substantive Knowledge**

To begin Year 8 students explore the impacts of societies on individuals. Students begin the year conducting a novel study of *Stone Cold* considering the impacts of social deprivation on both the main protagonist and antagonist. Students consider how authorial and structural methods create empathy in readers to reflect the emotional effects of poverty on individuals. Following on from the exposition of the term, students study a unit of Crime Poetry considering how attitudes to class and gender across the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century impact crime in their respective eras. Furthermore, the relationship between morals and the law is debated and evaluated within lessons. This enables students to add philosophical and ethical layers to their analysis. The impact individuals can have on society is then explored through a unit analysing the genre of dystopia. Here students reflect upon their own worlds, and how writers explore their visions for different societies through political protest writing and science fiction. The power of the individual's voice is further consolidated when students study Important Female Voices enabling them to critique gender alongside language analysis. Students then complete a study of *Romeo and Juliet* applying their now secure understanding of social impact on people. Finally, students consider how society impacts individuals in *Frankenstein* the play which offers a sympathetic reading of how the monster is affected by prejudice and isolation.

### **Substantive Knowledge for Literacy Lessons**

The curriculum for Year 8 is designed for students to have three English lessons (covering the disciplinary content above) and one literacy focussed lesson in which students revision spelling, punctuation and grammar. Due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic the last two years, the literacy lessons are designed to ensure there are no gaps in the students' application of KS2 and KS3 literacy skills. Students will: revisit word classification (fronted adverbials, superlatives and comparatives, verb types); basic punctuation rules (semi-colons and colons, using brackets for subordination) alongside completing 10 key spellings each week (compromised of topic specific vocabulary and commonly misspelled words). Once we have covered the basic foundation of English grammar in the lessons, we will then focus on reading comprehension, application of grammatical terminology for analysis and 'big writes' to ensure that each student can apply accurate grammar choices to their work.

### **Disciplinary Knowledge**

In Year 8, students explore how writers use language (phonetics, syntax, structure and descriptive devices) to reflect upon, protest against and empower society. The teaching of embedding contextual information into analysis enables students to evaluate their own attitudes to writers' ideologies. Furthermore, students develop their ability to express their own ideas in formal settings, from creative writing to debates, by having a sophisticated repertoire of vocabulary, engaging syntax and passionate communication of ideas. In their study of advertising, students combine their analysis of language and ideology with media techniques from Maslow's hierarchy of needs when learning and applying media speak to comic book analysis. Finally, in their study of Shakespeare and poetry, students begin to consider the importance of form, meter and rhythm to convey changing tensions within the texts studied.

After the AP1 exams in November 2023, the whole year group will spend some time in December filling the gaps in their knowledge. These gaps are ascertained from the Question by Question analysis documents which are used by all staff. The gaps in December 2023 were:

- Using relevant and appropriate quotes from the poem.
- Identifying and analysing the poetic techniques.
- To apply contextual knowledge about life in the 1980s in a paragraph. .

## Year 9

### Substantive Knowledge

Students enter their final year of Key Stage 3 by conducting a novel study of *'The Book Thief'* enabling them to explore how a novel can expose societal prejudices against vulnerable members of society. An interdisciplinary study of non-fiction and fiction around the topic of Society's biggest questions is then explored for students to evaluate the importance words have on empowering people to challenge their ideologies. The theme of social protest and the importance of an individual's voice continues when students study poetry from other cultures – broadening their perspectives from western literature to global voices. Students then conduct an exploration of Shakespeare's villains encountering the genres of tragedy and historical plays through a contextual and literary focus. Finally, students study a unit of Gothic genre in which 19<sup>th</sup> century poets, dramatists and novelists protest against social deprivation and explore the personal implication of the effects of poverty in their respective works.

### Disciplinary Knowledge

The English curriculum at ASAD exponentially develops skills honed in Year 7 and 8. Students refine their linguistic and grammatical knowledge of the language to include phonetic and semantic analysis of words and clauses; additionally, their metaphorical interpretation of techniques expands beyond metaphor and simile to consider the wider structural impact of devices across a novel. Furthermore, students are encouraged to critique and develop an appreciation for structure beyond a comprehensive level; Freytag's pyramid, media-techniques and engagement with the audience are applied to both reading and written activities. Finally, the development of the students' voice develops across Year 9 – through a focus on the importance of paralinguistics alongside expression and confidence in ideas.

After the AP1 exams in November 2023, the whole year group will spend some time in December filling the gaps in their knowledge. These gaps are ascertained from the Question by Question analysis documents which are used by all staff. The gaps in December 2023 were:

- Using linguistic and structural terminology when analysing an extract.
- To use evaluative phrases when considering a students' opinion on a text.
- To consider the connotations and semantics of words.

### **Substantive Knowledge for Literacy Lessons**

The curriculum for Year 9 is designed for students to have three English lessons (covering the disciplinary content above) and one literacy focussed lesson in which students revision spelling, punctuation and grammar. Due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic the last two years, the literacy lessons are designed to ensure there are no gaps in the students' foundation knowledge in Key Stage 3 literacy. Students will revise syntax and grammar through by focussing on clauses (main, minor and subordinate), phrases (fronted adverbials, prepositional and verb phrases) and sentence types. Students will also revise punctuation rules for commas, apostrophes, semi-colons and colons. This will enable our students to make succinct analytical comments about a writer's syntax and grammar choices whilst also being more ambitious in their own grammar choices in their work. Students will also complete a ten-word spelling test within these lessons each week to ensure that they have an accurate, written command within English. Once we have covered syntactic and grammar in the literacy lessons, students are then guided in their reading competency of 19<sup>th</sup> century sources enabling us to support them in their deciphering and understanding of texts.