

## English Curriculum Information

### Year 6

Girls study a range of literature texts, including the novels 'Why the Whales Came' by Michael Morpurgo, 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson and 'The Railway Children' by E. Nesbit; a selection of short stories; the play 'Toad of Toad Hall' by A.A. Milne (adapted from W. Grahame's 'The Wind in the Willows'), and a selection of poetry including poems by Robert Louis Stevenson and modern poetry. Girls are also encouraged to read independently from the guided reading list for Year 6. Class work and homework tasks are set which reflect key aspects of the literature studied, and also focus on appropriate language skills. Such tasks include cover blurbs, autobiographical writing, writing poetry, creative story writing, a news article, diary extracts, letter writing, and an essay expressing an opinion. Time is specifically allocated to the development of accuracy in the use and understanding of grammar, spelling and punctuation. Speaking and listening activities play a significant part in lessons, through whole class and small group discussion, and girls also interview each other, take part in a class debate, create and present a short play script, and read aloud from a novel, then briefly recommend it.

### Year 7

Girls study a range of literature texts, including three of the novels 'Tom's Midnight Garden' by Philippa Pearce, 'The Ghost of Thomas Kempe' by Penelope Lively, 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier and 'Witch Child' by Celia Rees; the play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare; a selection of poetry including an introduction to poems by Tennyson, a selection of short stories and a brief introduction to Dickens's prose. Girls are also encouraged to read independently from the guided reading list for Year 7. Class work and homework tasks are set which reflect key aspects of the literature studied, and also focus on appropriate language skills. Such tasks include writing a narrative based on personal experience, writing in diary form, producing an informative leaflet, writing a literature essay, designing a map of a place using details from a novel, exploring similes and metaphors, producing a newspaper report and investigating persuasive techniques and the use of register. Time is specifically allocated to the development of accuracy in the use and understanding of grammar, spelling and punctuation. Speaking and listening activities play a significant part in lessons, through whole class and small group discussion, and girls also participate in assessed oral activities including small group discussion exploring a topic idea, presenting a polished play script performance, and presenting a speech recommending a novel.

### Year 8



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Girls study a range of literature texts, including the novels 'The Village by the Sea' by Anita Desai' and 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell; the play 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare; a selection of poetry including poems by Keats and Wordsworth; and one or more of the additional texts 'Private Peaceful' (the play) by Michael Morpurgo, plays by Sue Townsend and the novel 'Z for Zachariah' by Robert O'Brien. Girls are also encouraged to read independently from the guided reading list for Year 8. Class work and homework tasks are set which reflect key aspects of the literature studied, and also focus on appropriate language skills. Such tasks include a creative story using devices to build the description of a place, informal and formal letters, a persuasive speech, a leaflet using writing to advise, a literature essay, and a study of soliloquies. Time is specifically allocated to the development of accuracy in the use and understanding of grammar, spelling and punctuation, with a focus on increasing the range of vocabulary and the use of the semi-colon and colon. Speaking and listening activities play a significant part in lessons, through whole class and small group discussion, and girls also present a review of a novel, a formal non-fiction talk on a researched topic, and a demonstration of a practical task.

## **Year 9**

Girls study a range of literature texts, including the novel 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen, the play 'Much Ado About Nothing' by William Shakespeare, a selection of poetry including poetry of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, and one or more of the additional texts 'Cider With Rosie' by Laurie Lee, 'Far from the Madding Crowd' by Thomas Hardy, 'Anita and Me' by Meera Syal, and 'Cambridge Short Stories'. Girls are also encouraged to read independently from the guided reading list for Year 9. Class work and homework tasks are set which reflect key aspects of the literature studied, and also focus on appropriate language skills, developing the techniques and knowledge which will be required for GCSE study in Y10. Written tasks include a dramatic monologue, the analysis of advertisements, a discursive essay analysing a point of view, the analysis of speeches through a study of rhetorical devices, a formal literature essay on a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, a comparison of soliloquies, a letter home from the trenches using 1<sup>st</sup> World War poetry. Speaking and listening activities play a significant part in lessons, through whole class and small group discussion, and girls also present their monologue, take part in an assessed book group activity and present a formal speech, using rhetorical devices, followed by questions from the class.

## **Year 10 (GCSE)**

Students follow the OCR Specification GCSE courses for English Language (J355) and English Literature (J360). The Literature examination texts 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson and 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley are studied, and timed essays are set in preparation for examination-style



questions. Preparation for the Language Paper is also undertaken, which involves analysis of media and non-fiction texts, and writing information and ideas in a variety of formats. A selection of Shakespeare's Sonnets and the play 'Romeo and Juliet' are studied for Controlled Assessment tasks as Literary Heritage Linked Texts. Speaking and listening Controlled Assessment tasks are set regularly, which range over the required types of oral settings and purposes.

## **Year 11 (GCSE)**

Students continue following the OCR Specifications J355 for English Language and J360 for English Literature. 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck is studied as a crossover text for a Literature examination and a Language Controlled Assessment task; contemporary poetry is studied in preparation for an unseen poetry examination question on a Literature paper; for a further Language Controlled Assessment task work focuses on Imaginative writing; further Speaking and Listening tasks take place; and revision for all examination units is undertaken.

## **Year 12 (AS)**

Students follow the new OCR Specification H071 for AS English Literature, which is designed to encourage wide reading supplemented by detailed research and literary critical study within the whole field of advanced literary studies. One unit (F661) is examined, comprising the study of an anthology of poems by Emily Dickinson, the novel 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley, and a selection of critical approaches to literature. The second unit (F662) involves the study of three further texts, the poetry collection 'The World's Wife' by Carol Ann Duffy, and two novels, 'Enduring Love' by Ian McEwan and 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood, and this leads to two coursework essays. After the AS examinations, students begin the initial study of texts and themes leading to the A2 course.

## **Year 13 (A2)**

Students follow the new OCR Specification H471 for A2 English Literature, which is designed to encourage wide reading supplemented by detailed research and literary critical study within the whole field of advanced literary studies. One unit (F663) is examined in June, comprising the study of 'Othello' by William Shakespeare, 'Dr Faustus' by Christopher Marlowe and either 'Paradise Lost Book 1 and 2' by John Milton or 'The Pardoner's Tale' by Geoffrey Chaucer (teacher choice). The second unit (F664) involves the study of three further texts, all linked by the theme of 'Women in Society': 'Persuasion' by Jane Austen, 'A Doll's House' by Henrik Ibsen and a collection of poems by Sylvia Plath selected by Ted Hughes. This leads to a comparative coursework essay. Written work is set each week in the form of essays or detailed preparation and critical reading, leading to discussion in lessons, and timed essay practice is provided as examination preparation.

