

Curriculum | English



Co-op Academy
Florence MacWilliams

Curriculum | Intent

The English curriculum at Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams exposes students to the very best that has been thought and said across the literary canon and beyond. It broadens students' horizons by taking them beyond their lived experiences and encourages them to read, understand and question the world around them. By engaging with ideas and perspectives, students will become articulate, reflective and responsible citizens who understand the power of their voice to influence and advocate for themselves and others.

Our curriculum is:

- Ambitious and knowledge-rich to ensure that all students, regardless of background or starting point, have access to a broad and challenging curriculum that enables them to know more, do more and remember more.
- Carefully sequenced so that new learning builds upon prior knowledge. This knowledge is broken down into steps which ensures that we approach knowledge at its most granular level. Components are then taught as small steps to allow students to achieve mastery, and become experts in English.
- Underpinned by cognitive science and recognises the importance of working memory, cognitive load theory, retrieval practice and interleaving. This ensures that students develop strong, long term memories and can apply their knowledge with increasing fluency, confidence and independence.
- The vehicle through which students acquire and deepen both substantive and conceptual knowledge to understand how meaning is constructed, interpreted and shaped across texts.
- Inclusive of texts which are both part of the canon and anti-canon to expose students to diverse texts alongside the more traditional, seminal works of literature. This balanced approach enables students to study a range of voices, perspectives and experiences to foster critical thinking and the ability to understand how literature both reflects and challenges society across different times and contexts.
- Designed to ensure that 100% of students are able to achieve at least a grade 4 and above in their English GCSE.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	
7	<u>Write like a Journalist</u> The Bone Sparrow The Bone Sparrow will expose students to the power of protesting against injustice. In this unit, students will write like journalists to understand its importance in educating society about issues that extend beyond our own experiences. While focusing on the Rohingya crisis, they will examine the power of language and its importance in shaping our perspectives to influence our understanding of the world.	<u>Shakespearean Stages</u> Romeo and Juliet William Shakespeare is one of the most influential writers within our literary heritage. In this unit, students will develop an understanding of the play as a theatrical experience through their study of stagecraft, dramatic conventions and the Tragic genre. Alongside this, they will examine the script through an analytical lens with a particular focus on the characterisation of Romeo and Juliet to track their development over the course of the text.	<u>An Introduction to Poetry</u> Metaphor Poetry evokes an imaginative awareness of experience, and can be used as a form of protest. In this unit, students will study a selection of poetry spanning from the Victorian period through to the twenty-first century. They will develop an understanding of the poetic form as a vehicle for inspiring change within society. Alongside this, they will learn how figurative language can shape meaning about important ideas.	<u>Spoken Word</u> Devising and reciting poems The spoken word is an oral poetic performance art that focuses on the aesthetics of recitation. In this unit, students will write their own poems, and will be taught how to use the appropriate volume, pace and expression as well as how to develop a stage presence. This will culminate in a live poetry reading where students will experience performing their work to an audience.
8	<u>Genre Study</u> An exploration of Gothic Literature The Gothic genre rose to prominence in the eighteenth century. Beginning with the seminal work of Horace Walpole, students will learn about the origins of the Gothic and its tropes to understand how it paved the way for other canonical writers within our literary heritage. They will study a selection of gothic texts, from an analytical viewpoint, with a particular focus on how imagery is utilised within literature.	<u>Allegory</u> Animal Farm The significance of allegorical fiction will be explored through George Orwell's canonical novella. Students will examine the text as a social commentary on the events of the Russian Revolution and will learn how characters can be used as methods to represent real world ideas. In particular, students will learn about authorial intent to understand how texts are used as vehicles to explore concepts that are bigger than the plot.	<u>Write like an Author</u> Short Stories Narrative writing awakens the imagination and takes readers on a journey beyond their own experience. Students will study a selection of contemporary short stories to learn how to produce their own narrative writing. In particular, students will focus on the construction of character, plot and atmosphere. This unit is designed to replicate authentic author experiences, so students will invest into one narrative which they will craft, edit, and redraft.	<u>Reading through Performance</u> Open Mic Storytelling began as an oral tradition in which a speaker would verbally narrate their story. In this unit, students will bring their narrative writing to life. They will look at how to use the appropriate volume, pace and expression as well as how to develop a stage presence. This will culminate in a live narrative reading where students will experience performing their work to an audience.
9	<u>Shakespeare and Critical Theory</u> The Tempest William Shakespeare will be revisited and students will be taught how to study his work through a critical lens. They will apply postcolonial theory to Shakespeare's original script to examine the impact of colonisation, and will be taught how to write like a literary critic. In particular, students will focus on the characterisation of Caliban to consider the impact of colonial power.	<u>Poetry Spotlight</u> Carol Ann Duffy Carol Ann Duffy is one of the most prominent female poets of our generation. Through an in-depth study of the former Poet Laureate, students examine her work through a literary lens of their choice. In this unit, students will gain experience in producing an extended piece of writing while learning how to research, plan, draft and edit their own academic paper.	<u>The Art of Rhetoric</u> Powerful Communicators Powerful communicators have dominated history to shape a better world for future generations. Through a study of some of the most famous speeches to exist, students will learn about the art of rhetoric to critically examine the effectiveness of persuasion. In doing so, they will also gain an insight into some of the most predominant issues in society that are central to understanding the world within which we live.	<u>Speak like an Orator</u> Delivering a speech The art of effective speaking empowers students to have a voice, so that they can advocate for themselves and others to stand up for what they believe in. In this unit, students will be taught how to write a speech. They will learn how to speak persuasively and how to address a live audience. This will culminate in a oracy competition where students will deliver their work to a panel of judges.

Autumn TermSpring TermSummer TermEnglish Literature Paper 2

Lord of the Flies

Lord of the Flies examines human nature, civilisation, power and the fragile balance between order and chaos. In this unit, students will return to the concept of allegory but, this time, through a critical lens to explore ideas about morality, leadership and societal structures. This unit will also teach students how to thread an argument throughout an entire essay.

English Literature Paper 1

Macbeth

Macbeth is an exploration of the dangers of transgressive behaviours and the inevitability of moral consequence. In this unit, students will return to the Tragic genre to examine the trajectory of Macbeth's downfall to explore the concept of a tragic hero. In students' third encounter with William Shakespeare, they will learn how to track and critically examine recurring motifs across the entire play.

English Literature Paper 1

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde is widely regarded as the foundational text of late-Victorian Gothic. In this unit, students will return to the Gothic genre to examine ideas about duality, identity and morality.

English Language

Paper 1

English Language Paper 1 develops students' ability to read, interpret and analyse fiction texts critically through language, structure and evaluation. In this unit, students will independently write about a fiction text to examine how writers shape meaning. They will also return to creative writing to produce a piece of realism for the latter half of the paper.

Unseen Poetry

24 mark response

This unit marks the accumulation of student' analytical capabilities across their curriculum journey. They will learn how to engage with unseen texts to produce written responses wholly independent from expert guidance.

English Language

Paper 2

English Language Paper 2 develops students' ability to read, interpret, and make inference about non-fiction texts through a comparison of two sources. In this unit, students engage with real world issues to examine how writers inform us about the society within which we live. They will also return to transactional writing to produce a non-fiction piece of work with focus on purpose, audience and form.

English Literature Paper 2

Power and Conflict

The Power and Conflict poetry anthology celebrates some of the most influential poets in English Literature from Romanticism to the modern day. In this unit, students are exposed to a range of voices to critically examine the varying perspectives of writers. In this unit, students will study poetry thematically and will be able to identify and write about patterns across the collection.

Unseen Poetry

8 mark response

This unit marks the accumulation of student' analytical capabilities across their curriculum journey. They will learn how to engage with unseen texts to produce written responses wholly independent from expert guidance in order to compare two poems.

Examinations



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At Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams, colleagues and pupils work at 'PACE' ensuring pride, ambition, care, and excellence for self, school and city