THE INDEPENDENT GRAMMAR SCHOOL: DURHAM

English Curriculum Overview - Upper School (Years 9-11)

National Curriculum • AQA English Language & AQA English Literature

Upper School Curriculum Map

Year Group	Michaelmas 1	Michaelmas 2	Lent 1	Lent 2	Trinity 1	Trinity 2
Year 9	Literature: fiction (19th/20th century); Language: descriptive	Literature: non-fiction (views & opinions); Language: argumentative	Literature: Poetry (power & conflict); Language: analytical	Literature: Shakespeare; Language: Writing to inform and explain	Literature: Narrative Poetry; Language: narrative	Literature & Language: consolidation; Exam preparation
Year 10	Literature: An Inspector Calls; Language: Paper 1 Section A	Literature: An Christmas Carol; Language: Paper 1 Section A Practice	Literature: A Christmas Carol; Language: Poetry Anthology, War Clutter	Literature: Poetry: Nature Cluster; Language: Section B Paper 1, writing to describe	Literature: Poetry: Clusters & comparisons; Language: Paper 2 Section B, writing to argue & persuade	Speaking & Listening Component; Introduction to Macbeth
Year 11	Literature: Macbeth; Language: Paper 2 Section A	MOCKS; Literature: Revision of literature texts; Language: Revisit Paper 1 Revision, revisit	Literature: Revision of literature texts; Language: Revisit Paper 1 Revision, revisit	MOCKS; Revision and consolidation	Exam Prep	GCSE Exams

Curriculum Intent

- Develop confident, articulate readers and writers
- Build a deep understanding of language and literature
- Equip pupils with the skills to analyse, evaluate and communicate effectively
- Follow the National Curriculum and prepare pupils for AQA GCSE English Language and English Literature

Implementation

- Teach English in line with the National Curriculum
- Use a clear progression of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills
- Study a range of canonical and contemporary texts
- Explicitly teach language, literary and analytical techniques
- Use regular exam-style questions and assessments
- Provide feedback and reflection to support improvement

Impact

- Read confidently and critically across a range of texts
- Write clearly, accurately and with purpose and effect
- Analyse language and structure with insight
- Demonstrate a strong understanding of literature
- Achieve their potential in GCSE English Language and English Literature and beyond

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