



Department:	English
Year 8 Course summary:	
Topics Studied	
<p>Each topic provides a range of opportunities to develop reading, writing and speaking skills. Non-fiction and fiction texts will be blended to create a broad reading diet. The skills of grammar, spelling and punctuation are developed in each unit.</p>	
Exploring Short Stories	
<p>We will look at a diverse range of short stories to explore aspects including structure and narrative perspective. Boys will be encouraged to think comparatively and write an essay that explores connections between two of the stories they have read.</p>	
Studying a Novel: <i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell	
<p>We explore the novel with a particular focus on its historical and political context. Students explore the relationship between power and language in Orwell's text.</p>	
Faces of London	
<p>We look at how London has been depicted across time through a range of fiction, poetry and non-fiction.</p>	
Our Environment	
<p>This unit provides a fresh perspective on writing about nature and our environment. Students will write their own pieces in a range of different genres.</p>	
Visions of the Future	
<p>The unit explores writing about the future in a variety of forms. We will read a range of Science Fiction stories alongside non-fiction texts that create powerful visions of the future to inspire readers.</p>	
Fairy tales and The Gothic – This unit looks at literary and media texts including fairy tales, classic Victorian short stories and film. Students will develop an overview of the genre and its characteristic features, which they will then apply in a Gothic piece of their own.	
IST Assessments:	
<p>Students will complete six assessments over the course of the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two reading assessments – An essay in which students are asked to respond to an extract or whole text using details to support their opinions.• Two writing assessments – Students have the opportunity to write in a range of different genres, both fiction and non-fiction.• Speaking – Students will complete one or more assessed piece of speaking over the year. This could be a speech to the class, an explanatory talk, a debate or a piece of drama in response to a text.• End of year exam – This will assess the core skills of reading and writing in exam conditions.	