

English Curriculum

Statement of Intent

English is an important academic discipline, both in its own right and in the access it provides to other subjects across the curriculum. At Nishkam High School, we aim to secure excellent outcomes at GCSE for all students, including disadvantaged students and those with SEND.

Our ambitious curriculum starts in KS3, where students are introduced to the key foundational concepts of English Literature and English Language. In each year, they are exposed to a variety of prose, poetry and drama, including a Shakespeare text in every year. These concepts are revisited and built upon each year, and at GCSE rigorous teaching and assessment ensure that students apply this knowledge confidently in examinations.

We make academic writing a focus of students learning. From Y7 through to A Level English Literature, students are taught the component parts of excellent writing through reading, modelling and deliberate practice. As with the other areas of English, students are taught cumulatively sufficient knowledge of writing for future learning and employment.

However, literature is not just a means to an end, but an end in itself. Reading opens doors to new worlds. To highlight this, our curriculum is organised thematically around some of these underlying human and literary concepts; Y7 study texts related to 'identity and exploration', Y8 tackle 'society and its divisions', whilst Y9 journey through 'innocence and experience.' Students enjoy a range of texts from the canon of literature, learning to see themselves and their experiences in both what is familiar and what is not. Ultimately, our English curriculum is 'Faith-Inspired, Virtues-Led.' There are many chances to stop and reflect on what books teach us along the way.

The library is the hub for our subject. We encourage students across the school to read for pleasure, prioritising reading to allow pupils to offer the full curriculum offer, as well as to open doors to new and exciting worlds. Moreover, our curriculum is enriched by trips, visits and experiences, such as theatre trips and study days.