

KS3 Curriculum INTENT

Studying English at Caldeu allows learners to experience a range of texts that will challenge and inspire them. We aim to develop our students' understanding of the rich world around them by discovering the links that Cumbria has to classic genres and great works of literature, alongside works of wider global and cultural significance. Students explore fiction, non-fiction, prose, drama and poetry through thematic units centred on significant texts, in which they are supported to develop their ideas through speaking as well as writing. We aim to build students' confidence via spoken language in the classroom: discussion, presentation, exploring texts through drama, and a range of formal and informal contexts allow students to explore their knowledge and challenge themselves in a supportive environment. At KS3, each class works closely with our librarian to develop the independent research skills necessary for further up the school, critically evaluating texts and developing an understanding of the importance of context. Students are offered a structured approach to exploration of texts, extracts and individual words, building on their skills over each year and key stage. We give a particular focus to creative writing, offering students the opportunity to explore themes and ideas through their own creativity and building their confidence when using ambitious vocabulary through specific homework and class work aimed at reducing the 'vocabulary gap'. Students are asked to transform, use and link words, reinforcing their understanding through practical tasks.

We aim to foster a love of reading, writing and all things English related through our enthusiasm for our subject and our well-planned curriculum. Post-Covid, we have embedded strategies shown to be effective through recent pedagogical research: reciprocal reading and the writing revolution. Both of these strategies support students' reading, comprehension and analytical skills by making the key processes involved in reading and exploring texts explicit and therefore developing more effective reading habits. These habits provide a foundation which will help students to access the whole curriculum more effectively. We also focus on reading extracts and whole texts in lessons, asking students to read aloud as well as read along and to listen to others reading. We want our students to be confident, assured learners with a depth of knowledge to support their understanding of the world around them. We have high expectations of all our students, challenging each individual to aim high and offering them the support and structure they need to do so.

KS3 Curriculum Information

Year 7

Autumn Term

Theme: Cumbria

- An introduction to descriptive writing through the works of Margaret Forster
- An introduction to Romantic poetry through the works of William and Dorothy Wordsworth
- An introduction to Gothic writing through *The Woman in White* and *The Croglin Vampire*
- Development of writing skills through tasks linked to Cumbria and the texts above
- Spoken language presentation

Spring Term

Theme: Victorian England

- The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman, with associated reading tasks
- Development of writing skills through tasks linked to the novel
- Spoken language presentation

Summer Term

Theme: An Introduction to Shakespeare

- Shakespeare's theatre
- Shakespeare's life and times
- A Midsummer Night's Dream, with associated reading tasks
- Creative writing based on the play

Year 8

Autumn Term

Theme: Gothic

- A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, with associated reading tasks
- Further exploration of the Gothic genre
- Development of writing skills through tasks linked to the novel
- Spoken language presentation

Spring Term

Theme: Crime and Mystery:

- Roald Dahl's Tales of the Unexpected
- The stories of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle
- An introduction to narrative structure
- Development of writing skills through tasks linked to the short stories studied
- Spoken language presentation

Summer Term

Theme: Love and Romance

- William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet
- A range of poetry to explore the themes of the play, including writing sonnets
- Creative writing based on the play

Year 9

Autumn Term

Theme: Dystopia, Power and Control

- A range of extracts from dystopian fiction, with associated reading tasks
- A range of non-fiction texts to explore how ideas and viewpoints are expressed
- Further exploration of descriptive writing and dystopia through reading and linked creative writing tasks
- Spoken language presentation

Spring Term

Theme: Other Cultures

- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, with associated reading tasks
- A range of poetry from other cultures and traditions
- Writing tasks linked to the texts studied
- Spoken language presentation

Summer Term

Theme: Macbeth (preparation for GCSE Literature)

- William Shakespeare's Macbeth and associated reading tasks
- Writing tasks linked to the play

Throughout KS3 students are asked to learn ambitious vocabulary, to complete online homework, and complete short-form and longer retrieval quizzes to ensure secure knowledge and understanding of texts and concepts.