

Beckfoot Thornton English Curriculum



Confident communicators

Our curriculum provides planned opportunities for all students to improve their ability to articulate their views and ideas in a confident and fluent manner, through what they say; what they read; what they write and what they create. Through this our students develop in both self-belief and confidence in their ability to communicate in a variety of settings.

Knowledgeable and experienced learners

Our curriculum provides opportunities for all students, regardless of their starting points, to develop the tools needed to learn and acquire both knowledge and skills. Through carefully sequenced learning, students' resilience grows as they become increasingly independent and proactive learners, who are empowered to succeed.

Committed community contributors

Our curriculum provides opportunities to enhance the cultural, creative and technological capital of all our students so that they can all make personal contributions in the wider community. They are proud of their school; understand the world around them. They develop personal skills as well as leadership attributes in order to make a positive contribution.

See the future and are ready for it

Our curriculum provides the opportunities, qualifications and aspirations, so that our students are able to make informed choices at each milestone. They are knowledgeable and have high aspirations for their own success so that they can thrive within a 21st century world. Our students are supported to develop the skills to face uncertainty in new situations, and the resilience to persevere when faced with new challenges.

English

Our students will be able to talk and write about challenging topics and texts. They will use the powerful tool of language to develop their communication skills and give expression to themselves, their lives and the wider world – both real and fictional. Our students will use standard English and adapt their register to the appropriate context.

Our students will develop a knowledge of key figures from literature and concepts from non-fiction giving them a vital understanding of human nature, guiding their moral compass and sparking creativity. They will acquire essential knowledge of written structures, informing and empowering both their creative and evaluative abilities. They will understand how literature both reflects and shapes the world around them.

The study of literature and the approach to writing through ethical debate will open our students' imaginations and allow them to comprehend and empathise with the wider community and world. By exploring a variety of perspectives and experiences, our students develop a keen sense of individual and collective responsibility.

In a world of rapid change, our curriculum equips students, through the study of language change and diversity, to understand how English relates to the world around them. Through literary study, our students will explore universal themes, and how they are dealt with throughout the ages and into an ever modernising future.

During their experience of Key Stage 3 English, our students will be able to:

- · apply reciprocal reading strategies (clarify, summarise, predict, question) in order to comprehend a range of prose, poetry and drama,
- use discussion in order to learn collaboratively with peers,
- build on vocabulary knowledge from KS2 by selecting appropriate vocabulary for a range of writing forms (formal writing such as letters and articles, alongside creative writing)
- explain how the time in which a text was written or set (context) influences the content of the text,
- communicate in Standard English both in writing and orally,
- make accurate inferences about explicit and implicit information in a range of texts and extracts.
- identify methods that writers use in order to create an impact on the reader or audience.

By the end of Key Stage 4 our students will develop their reading, writing and spoken language skills through their study of language and literature, covering Macbeth, An Inspector Calls, a C19th novel and a range of power and conflict themed poetry. They will be able to:

- selectively choose and arrange evidence, and comment effectively on a writer's use of language,
- confidently compare ideas and evaluate texts,
- communicate clearly and effectively, and use a sophisticated range of vocabulary,
- read and respond to a range of challenging texts,
- understand and comment on the relationship between texts and contexts,
- demonstrate knowledge of key texts and contexts,
- organise thoughts in a sophisticated manner.

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Students study for:

- AQA English Language
- AQA English Literature

Building on the foundation of GCSE, by the end of Key Stage 5 our students will be able to:

- read and write with perception and sharp comprehension of content,
- engage confidently in debate and construct a sophisticated argument,
- produce written responses that are impressive and mature,
- analyse a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts from a variety of genres and purposes,
- understand and investigate factors which affect the production and reception of English.

In Literature, they will study Shakespeare's King Lear and Richard II, alongside The Great Gatsby in a generic study of tragedy. They will study elements of writing through Christie's The Murder of Roger Ackroyd and Atkinson's When will there be good news? as well as a range of poetry.

Students study for:

Students are taught in setted groups based on KS2 SATs data and teacher

assessment. Schemes and content are tailored to ability and designed to

challenge students at all levels. At key points through the year, sets are

reviewed and students are moved in response to progress made.

- AQA English Language A-level
- AQA English Literature B A-level

What are we trying to achieve?