

## **How the English department at Huntcliff School prepares students for life in modern Britain**

**We aim for our students to:**

**Learn about other cultures, faiths and traditions through the study of seminal world literature.**

There are many aspects of English culture that are encapsulated by English literature. Of course, this is quite obvious when studying the works of Shakespeare or of writers, poets and playwrights of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, studying Literature does not confine the students to the traditions of England.

Students are encouraged to develop an understanding and acceptance of human nature in all its richness and diversity.

**Use literature as a tool to learn how to handle different situations.**

Without reading about these people, places, events, we quite possibly would never experience similar situations. By reading about them, discussing them with others, thinking about how we would react in similar situations, we are learning. We are gathering information and tools for our lives. Every book a person reads changes them...even if only slightly. We are learning, collecting material, developing personality, discovering likes and dislikes about ourselves. We are studying the human condition, and the world we live in.

**Be enriched through literature.**

Whether contemporary or old, literature enriches the lives of students. It opens up a

world of adventure and provides them with a glimpse into the unknown. Through literature, students can explore and experience places and situations around the world. They meet an astonishing array of characters, from the noble to the despicable - representations of people from all walks of life engaged in all kinds of activities.

**Explore issues pertinent to their lives and the modern world around them through contemporary literature.**

Through the study of novels such as *Playground*, *Coraline* and *Abomination*, pupils learn about sexuality, bullying, relationships and family. It also provides the students with an alternative to the pervasiveness of “television culture” with its immediacy and, often, its shallowness.

## **Have a variety of opportunities to develop and practice their verbal skills.**

At Key Stages three and four, pupils develop their ability to adapt their spoken language in order to suit a wide variety of contexts and audiences. They learn about informal and formal speech, how to adapt their vocabulary to achieve certain effects and how spoken language has evolved over time. We look at the role that modern technology plays in communication and how it is helping to shape the way we communicate both professionally and personally.

## **Understand the accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.**

Pupils are taught the rules that govern the English language and how meaning can be affected and manipulated through the deliberate use of grammar, spelling and punctuation.

It is vital that pupils recognise the importance that English Language plays in the way we affect and interact with the world around us. We relate the study of English language to real life contexts, for example pupils study: conflict poetry during November, the use of persuasive language in charity campaigns and the use of bias in newspaper articles.

## **Write in a variety of different styles such as:**

Letter writing

Narrative and descriptive writing

Review writing

Job applications

Writing articles

Autobiographical writing

English language is the code we use to express ourselves and to communicate with others. Language is always the foundation for successful communication. It is vital that students are given the tools needed to correctly use the English language so that they can communicate effectively in the world around them.