



Christ's College Guildford

Principal: Sarah Hatch. BA (Hons), QTS, PGC, NPQH
www.christscollege.surrey.sch.uk



Subject: English

Year Group: 9

Curriculum Intent:

The English Department at Christ's College is a successful and forward thinking department which is characterised by a strong sense of collaboration and enthusiasm for our subject and our students; always striving to foster within our pupils a love of language and literature.

We aim to develop pupils' ability to communicate effectively in a wide range of contexts; to enable pupils to use accurate Standard English and develop an interest in the richness of the English language in its various forms. We encourage pupils to develop an interest in extending the range of their own language in terms of style, vocabulary, structure and form, providing them with the tools to become engaging and imaginative readers and writers.

We endeavour to develop cultural capital; giving pupils the opportunity to read texts and see plays by contemporary authors and play-writes and also those celebrated within our literary heritage. We strive to offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities and above all else we provide a curriculum which offers a rich and diverse range of learning experiences enabling all pupils to enjoy, embrace and learn the skills needed for their future pathways.

College Values:

The Christ's College English department's focus is to ensure that all pupils in our school have the opportunity to make greater than expected progress across all Key Stages in the subject of English. When visiting our department, you will see that we uphold and display the vision and ethos of our school and encourage the pupils to embrace our core values: Love, stewardship, cooperation, respect and service.

Following our school behaviour policy, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by respecting and working with their peers; sharing the skills and knowledge they are gifted with and embracing the new skills and knowledge they learn, to gain their full potential.

Knowledge and Skills:

Autumn 1: Writing for different purposes

Students will develop their creative and discursive writing skills through a range of varied activities which will enable them to explore the effect of using a variety of language devices and sentences for clarity, purpose and effect and study the importance of technical accuracy such as: The use of tense and verb forms, accuracy of syntax and punctuation in phrases, clauses and sentences and the effectiveness of sequencing and structuring information, ideas and events.



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Autumn 2: Shakespeare

In this module students will study the whole play: *Romeo and Juliet*. Through a range of activities: Watching the play and studying extracts, students will explore the language, structure and form and Shakespeare's intentions to demonstrate understanding and meaning of contextual ideas and themes such as: Love, loyalty, fate, marriage, and the power of patriarchy.

Spring 1: 19th Century Non-Fiction

During this term, students will explore a range of non-fiction extracts and texts from the 19th Century on topics such as: Victorian sport, fashion, etiquette, child labour, education, crime and punishment. Students will respond to these texts, developing comprehension skills: Understanding what implicit and explicit information is, learning the skills of summarizing a text, understanding language for meaning and effect and comparing viewpoints and attitudes of the writers.

Spring 2: Poetry

Students will develop their skills of giving a personal response, verbal and written, to a range of poems from the GCSE Power and Conflict anthology, which will give them a great foundation for their learning journey at Christ's College. In this module students will be encouraged to research writers to be able to understand the contextual ideas in a poem and they will be able to build confidence in exploring the meaning of language, form and structure, used by the writer, for effect.

Summer 1: The Novel

Reading the novel, *Of Mice and Men*, students will focus on the language, structure and form of The American Novel to understand: The importance of setting, characterisation, allusion, symbols and foreshadowing. They will also study the key themes and contextual ideas of: The impossibility of The American Dream, The Great Depression, the predatory nature of human existence, fraternity and the ideal male friendship, gender and race, to understand Steinbeck's viewpoint and attitude of 1930s America.

Summer 2: The Novel

In the final term, students will study Orwell's 1945 allegorical novel, *Animal Farm* where they will be able to explore and develop their understanding of language, structure and form. Through a range of activities students will understand how the clever use of characterisation and contextual ideas and themes is important in portraying the authors satirical, political view of Russia's Revolution and the formation of its communist regime in 1917.



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Assessment:

Students will be assessed on the content and spelling, punctuation and grammar during lessons both verbally and summatively with the work they complete. More formal assessments will take place in the form of an end of topic/term assessment and this will be assessed on the learning objective of the module.

Creative and discursive writing will be assessed on Assessment Objectives:

AO5 (Content)

AO6 (Technical Accuracy)

Reading for meaning/understanding will be assessed on Assessment Objectives:

AO1 (Use of textual references, quotations to illustrate interpretations)

AO2 (Analysing language form and structure used by a writer to create meaning and using terminology)

AO3 (Showing an understanding of relationships between texts and the context they were written in)

AO4 (Using a range of vocabulary, sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect with accurate spelling and punctuation).

Homework:

Each module will be accompanied with homework tasks that will embed the skills and knowledge they are learning in the classroom.

Cultural Capital:

Students are encouraged to join and be involved in our extra-curricular activities such as:

1. Exploring other texts, in our Book Club and sharing reviews with the school.
2. Playing with language and entering competitions in our Creative Writing Club.
3. Exploring the world of journalism and media in our Media and Young Journalist workshops.

The department work closely with The Guildford Shakespeare Company, who have brought Shakespeare to our classrooms, presenting performances such as Macbeth with opportunities for students to take part in workshops and question and answer sessions with the actors. This has been invaluable to our students as it has brought the play to life, giving them a broader understanding of the themes, characterisation and context of the play.