

English Overview

Year 8 students have five 65 minute English lessons over two weeks, one of which is based in the library. Over the course of Year 8, students will experience prose, poetry, drama, media and non-fiction in a stimulating, challenging and enjoyable way. Creative and critical thinking approaches are promoted through the development and consolidation of reading, writing and speaking and listening skills, via differentiated whole class, small group, paired or individual activities. Students buy a personal copy of the novels *Private Peaceful* Topics are studied over the year at approximately eight-week intervals, supplemented by a range of supporting texts provided by the department. The novel *Private Peaceful* will be studied at the start of term 2.

Core Texts

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo (ISBN 0007791127 or 9780007486441)

Library Lessons

Students have one library lesson every two weeks. During this lesson students have the opportunity to read privately, use the library lending facilities and work on creative responses to their reading. Teachers spend time listening to students out loud, discussing students' reading preferences with them and suggest new books students' can read. We encourage students to select books that are challenging and that take them beyond what the texts read at primary school.

Assessment

Reading, writing as well as speaking and listening skills are assessed in an on-going manner over the year, with evidence of these assessments appearing on 'The Evidencer' twice a term. Along with teacher assessments, students are encouraged to reflect on their own progress and achievement.

Homework

Year 8 students will be set a variety of homework task over the year. Tasks will be meaningful, achievable and clearly communicated to students. Students will always have more than one school day to complete homework and task should not take students more than 30 minutes per week.

Reading is one of the fundamental building blocks to academic success across all subjects; as such students are expected to read for around 30 minutes a day or 3.5 – 4.5 hours a week. This reading can be in a variety of forms including print media, online sources and non-fiction books and fiction; all forms of reading should be encouraged. Students' reading choices are monitored and expanded in English lessons as students are encouraged to read a range of authors, genres, difficulty levels etc. The department further encourages wider reading through providing recommended reading lists, Book Week activities and participation in the Inter- House "Battle of the Books' competition.

Enrichment

During the year a variety of initiatives are offered to enhance students' learning. These include promoting public writing competitions, inclusion of work in the school's creative magazine 'Imaginings,' Battle of the Books, World Literacy Day, visiting authors and Book Week activities. The department also offers theatre trips to HK productions of texts studied within the English curriculum.