



ABINGDON

HOUSE SCHOOL

Curriculum map overview for: Year 8 English (KS3, 25-26)

<i>Term</i> <i>(Weeks)</i>	<i>Topic/Unit (weeks)</i>	<i>Key Objectives</i>	<i>Type of assessment</i>
<i>Week 1</i> <i>(First full week)</i>	<i>Initial evaluation</i>	This is a key time to establish clear routines with Year 8 students, building positive relationships and developing a strong understanding of each learner's strengths and areas for development. To support this, informal initial assessments will be used to identify gaps in knowledge and highlight key skills across reading, writing, and spoken language.	GL assessment YRAT 5
<i>Autumn 1</i> <i>(7)</i>	<i>Non-Fiction</i> <i>Travel Writing</i>	<p>This term in Year 8 English, we'll be diving into the world of travel writing.</p> <p>Students will explore a range of travel texts and learn how writers bring places to life through descriptive language, structure, and tone. They'll practise key skills such as identifying purpose and audience, analysing language techniques, and crafting vivid, engaging narratives. Pupils will also plan and write their own travel pieces—real or imagined—developing their ability to inform, entertain, and transport the reader through words.</p>	Presentations Class discussions Peer assessment Q&A Observations Mini Whiteboards

			End of unit assignment (writing / presentation task)
Autumn 2 (7)	19th Century Novel A Christmas Carol	This term, our Year 8 students will be studying <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens—a classic 19th-century novel that introduces key themes such as poverty, generosity, social responsibility, and personal transformation. Through this unit, students will develop their ability to understand historical context, track character development, and explore how Dickens uses language and structure to engage readers and convey powerful moral messages.	Class discussions Peer assessment Redrafting Self assessment Q&A Observations Mini Whiteboards End of unit assignment (extended writing task)
Spring 1 (6)	Drama The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	This term, our Year 8 students will be studying <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i> by Mark Haddon / Stephen Stephens - a modern novel and play that offers a unique perspective on the world through the eyes of its narrator, Christopher. The story explores important themes such as difference, truth, family, and trust, while also encouraging empathy and understanding of neurodiversity. Students will examine how Haddon / Stephens uses language, structure, and dramatic techniques to tell the story in an original and engaging way.	Extract analysis Performance based activities Q&A Observations Mini Whiteboards End of unit assignment (project)

Spring 2 (6)	Shakespeare Twelfth Night (No Fear Edition)	<p>This term, our Year 8 students will be studying Twelfth Night, a lively and humorous play by William Shakespeare. The play explores themes such as love, identity, and mistaken identity, and gives students a great introduction to Shakespeare's work in an engaging and enjoyable way.</p> <p>Through this unit, students will begin to build their confidence with Shakespearean language and practise talking and writing about characters, themes, and key moments in the play.</p>	<p>Extract analysis</p> <p>Performance based activities</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Observations</p> <p>Mini Whiteboards</p> <p>End of unit assignment (multiple choice quiz & written task)</p>
Summer 1 (5)	Sinister Stories, Poems & Creative Writing A selection of poems & Three Times is a Sentence	<p>This term, our Year 8 students will be exploring a range of dark and mysterious texts in an exciting unit called Sinister Stories, Poems & Creative Writing.</p> <p>The unit includes a selection of unsettling and atmospheric poems, as well as the gripping short story Three Times is a Sentence. These texts will encourage students to think deeply about how writers create tension, mood, and meaning through language and structure.</p> <p>Throughout the term, students will explore character, setting, and mood in both poetry and prose. They will analyse how writers build suspense and evoke emotion, while also developing their own creative writing skills through stories and poetry inspired by the texts.</p> <p>Alongside this, students will practise planning and writing responses using evidence from what they have read.</p>	<p>Class discussions</p> <p>Peer assessment</p> <p>Redrafting</p> <p>Self assessment</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Observations</p> <p>Mini Whiteboards</p> <p>End of unit assignment</p>
Summer 2 (6)	Modern Classic War Horse	<p>This term, our Year 8 students will be studying War Horse by Michael Morpurgo - a powerful and moving novel that explores the impact of war through the eyes of a young horse and the boy who loves him.</p> <p>Set against the backdrop of World War I, War Horse tells the story of Joey, a farm horse who</p>	<p>Class discussions</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Observations</p>

		<p>is sold to the army and sent to the front lines, and Albert, the boy who vows to find him again. As Joey experiences both the horrors and the humanity of war from both sides of the trenches, students will be introduced to themes such as friendship, loyalty, courage, sacrifice, and the brutality of conflict.</p> <p>This novel offers students the opportunity to explore historical context, develop empathy, and examine how narrative perspective can shape a story. The text is ideal for building key English skills in reading comprehension, inference, analysis of language and structure, and understanding of character and theme.</p>	<p>Mini Whiteboards</p> <p>End of unit assignment</p>
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