

English at Henlow Academy

Intent

At Henlow Academy, we provide our pupils with a broad and balanced education in English Language and Literature at Key Stage 3 and 4. We are committed to ensuring all of our pupils fulfil their potential and seek to encourage a lifelong love of English in all forms. We actively promote literacy – specifically, the ability to read, write and think critically. We aim to equip our pupils for lifelong success by upholding the values of the Academy, and, above all, inspire.

Pupils are encouraged to express themselves confidently through the spoken and written word, and to develop their skills so as to have a positive influence across all areas of the curriculum. Pupils are introduced to a vast range of texts which they will read, analyse and critically evaluate throughout KS3 and KS4, leading to extended writing and critical responses. We actively seek to encourage a broad and deep understanding of social, moral, spiritual and cultural ideas and how, through reading and language study, all pupils can be highly valued members of our community and wider society.

Implementation

Teaching across all Key Stages will enable pupils to explore a range of concepts as it relates to real life, philosophical, cultural and social situations. This will be achieved through exposure to diverse texts, media coverage and, at Key Stage 4, past exam papers which will assess the extent to which pupils have understood texts, views and theories.

Similar themes will be carried across the sequence of learning for each Key Stage; all pupils will explore a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts across a range of genres and literary movements. Pupils will be encouraged to stretch and challenge their perceptions at every stage; we provide pupils with the opportunity to expand on individual areas of interest through a highly creative and independent homework programme.

Learners are formally assessed termly, as well as being assessed regularly throughout each sequence of learning.

Impact

By the time pupils leave Henlow, they will have read and studied a variety of texts spanning the English literary canon. They will be able and fluent readers, confident writers and speakers, able to express themselves and their opinions on a range of topics through mature and developed linguistic skills. GCSE learners in particular will become critical thinkers who are able to analyse language and the structure of writing in detail. Our pupils will be highly motivated and successful, ultimately leaving to go on to higher education with the necessary communication and literacy skills to survive and thrive in an increasingly competitive and unpredictable world.

Curriculum overview

Sequences of learning for each year can be found on our curriculum maps.