



# English

At TLA, we believe the study of English and English Literature is fundamental to students' academic, emotional and social development. Our intent is built upon two pillars: firstly, students' understanding of the self; and secondly, students' understanding of the social contexts in which they exist.

## Understanding of the Self

We want our young people to be able to express themselves effectively in spoken and written form, in order that they feel heard, seen and valued. We want them to develop informed responses and opinions, both to texts and to real life. We also want our students to see themselves and their relationships reflected in literature; we want them to learn about themselves as individuals, and develop a sense of identity through the study of English.

## Understanding Society

We believe in the importance of using literature to understand the world in which we live, to empathise with other people and their situations, and to access both untapped and impossible experiences. We also want our students to be able to look critically at the world in which they exist; we want them to understand social constructs, issues and debates, in order that they might develop informed and educated opinions on complex issues.

Through these two pillars of our English curriculum, we aim to give students a rich understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

## Our 'why'

A rich and successful English curriculum empowers students to master the written and spoken word. Communicating with precision and clarity, and being able to adapt communication for a range of situations and forms, enables students to develop in both personal and professional capacities throughout their lives.

As well as being able to communicate effectively, our English curriculum develops students' ability to think critically about the world around them. It allows them to analyse what they read and hear and, in a world where vast quantities of information is at their fingertips, it teaches them to be discerning about the language they consume.

Finally, the diverse and meaningful literature studied by students not only develops their cultural capital, but it allows them to better understand the complex world in which they live: literature develops empathy by exploring a range of perspectives and themes which students will see reflected in their own lives and, more generally, in society.

## Our 'how'

We explore literature and language in order to develop students' understanding of themselves, and the contexts in which they exist. We achieve this through:

- Studying a broad range of challenging, diverse and quality literature;
- Sequencing our curriculum to build on knowledge and skills over time;
- Linking our units through the use of vocabulary and themes which underpin a wider understanding of the purpose of literature and the effects of language;
- Utilising effective formative and meaningful summative assessment to support students' progress;
- Interweaving a range of varied and creative reading and writing tasks;
- Building in structured oracy tasks, such as debates, extended questioning and speech performances;
- Promoting a love of reading, and teaching students how to be effective and active readers;
- Offering a range of trips and workshops designed to complement the curriculum, including theatre trips and poetry workshops.

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