

DAGENHAM PARK SUBJECT CURRICULUM

Subject	English
Year Group	Year 8 2019-2020
Overview	<p>Students in Year 8 study a novel, poetry, play, 19th Century texts, speeches, articles and film. We focus on reading, writing and speaking and listening skills each half term, and assess students at the end of the half term to see the progress they have made.</p>
Term by Term	
Autumn Half term 1	<p><u>Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck</u> Persuasive Writing: Our focus this half term is to read and comprehend the characters, events and themes of the novel, Of Mice and Men. We then focus on GCSE persuasive writing skills and students produce an engaging, convincing speech as a character – arguing their views on the statement ‘All people, no matter what gender, race or disability, deserve to be treated with equality and compassion’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write with an accurate use of SPAG • To understand and use DAFOREST persuasive techniques to argue a case and justify reasoning • To write using formal language and sophisticated vocabulary • To understand characterisation and the main themes of the novella • To write persuasively using PEEL
Autumn Half term 1	<p><u>Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck</u> Reading Analysis: Our focus this half term is to teach the reading skills essential for the GCSE Literature exam, while teaching subject terminology and grammar explicitly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand and comment on the historical context of 1920s and 1930s American society: the Great Depression, Wall Street Crash, “American Dream” • To make relevant points about how characters and themes are presented • To select and analyse relevant quotations to support points about character development and themes • To use subject terminology in analysis • To comment on Steinbeck’s intentions
Spring Half term 1	<p><u>War and Conflict Poetry</u> Reading analysis: Students will explore three conflict poems: ‘Dulce et Decorum est’ by Wilfred Owen, ‘Out of the Blue’ by Simon Armitage, and ‘War Photographer’ by Carol Ann Duffy. The aim is to analyse the meaning and effect of poetic technique – they will be taught unseen poetry analysis skills essential to the GCSE Literature exam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the historical context of World War 1 and the motivations of war poets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use quotations to support your interpretations • To identify and analyse key poetic techniques and the effect of the reader • To interpret the meaning and messages of poems
Spring Half term 2	<p><u>Structure and Film</u> Oracy: This half term our focus is to develop pupils' analysis of structural techniques. Students will learn the GCSE structural techniques through the exploring the structure of short film clips, short stories and music videos. We will use structured discussions to interpret the director's choices and the effects on viewers. These skills are essential to the GCSE Language exam where students will need to evaluate structural methods and think critically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn structural devices in beginning, middle and end of the clip and their effect • Explaining director's choices • Work productively in groups to create presentations • Develop presenting skills
Summer Half term 1	<p><u>Noughts and Crosses</u> Non-Fiction Writing: Pupils will explore the context of Noughts and Crosses: segregation, institutionalised racism, prejudice, segregation, discrimination through non-fiction texts, including 19th century extracts. We will practise writing a range of non-fiction texts: including reports, letters, diaries, articles from different perspectives of people experiencing injustice and discrimination.</p>
Summer Half term 2	<p><u>Noughts and Crosses</u> Reading: Using RSC strategies to bring the play to life, pupils will engage with the characters, plot, themes and author's intentions. This will build on their learning of <i>Of Mice and Men's</i> key themes, and prepare them when tackling the GCSE play <i>An Inspector Calls</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of structural devices used in plays • Commenting on techniques used to engage the audience • Analysis of language used to craft character and relationships
Homework	Homework will be provided weekly via <i>Show My Homework</i>. Homework set will reinforce the skills learnt in lesson.
Useful Resources	<p>All PowerPoints, resources and success criteria for each half term are on Sharepoint – English – KS3 Of Mice and Men: https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/micemen/ RSC Learning Zone: https://www.rsc.org.uk/noughts-and-crosses Grammar and Punctuation: https://chompchomp.com/</p>