'Raising the Achievement of All'

KEY STAGE 3 – Year 8 **English** CURRICULUM MAP 2026 - 2027

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Key Questions	**Animal Farm** How did Orwell write Animal Farm?	**Animal Farm** How does Orwell explore the theme of power in his novel?	**Gothic Unit** How do writers create suspense and atmosphere? What are the key features of Gothic fiction? How do writers create fear and mystery? How do Gothic writers engage the reader? How can we write effectively in the Gothic style?	**Gothic Unit** How do writers create suspense and atmosphere? What are the key features of Gothic fiction? How do writers create fear and mystery? How do Gothic writers engage the reader? How can we write effectively in the Gothic style?	**Small Island** How are characters and relationships presented? • What challenges do the characters face? • How does context shape the story?	**Small Island** How are characters and relationships presented? • What challenges do the characters face? • How does context shape the story?
Content: **'Know what'**	Allegory Orwell's life and times. The Russian Revolution.	Recurring imagery - Irony and corruption	Features of Gothic fiction. Gothic settings and atmosphere. Suspense and tension. Character archetypes. Language and structural devices.	Features of Gothic fiction. Gothic settings and atmosphere. Suspense and tension. Character archetypes. Language and structural devices.	Plot, characters and themes. • Post-war Britain and the Windrush generation. • Language, structure and writer's methods.	. Plot, characters and themes. • Post-war Britain and the Windrush generation. • Language, structure and writer's methods.
Expertise **'Know how'**	To understand that characters can represent particular people or sections of society.	To use complex topic sentences to explore character and selecting/ embedding quotations to support them.	To identify Gothic conventions. To analyse how writers create suspense and atmosphere. To use language and structural methods effectively. To write imaginatively in the Gothic style.	To identify Gothic conventions. To analyse how writers create suspense and atmosphere. To use language and structural methods effectively. To write imaginatively in the Gothic style.	Analyse characters using evidence. • Explain writer's methods. • Write analytical paragraphs using quotations.	Analyse characters using evidence. • Explain writer's methods. • Write analytical paragraphs using quotations.
Literacy/ Numeracy/ SMSC/	Students will be developing their literacy skills throughout the scheme through both the reading of the text and responding to it.	Students will explore the themes corruption and tyranny, communism, animalism, education and illiteracy, propaganda, violence, dreams and hope	Students will develop reading and creative writing skills through Gothic fiction. They will explore themes of fear, morality, the supernatural and good versus evil while discussing how writers create atmosphere and engage readers.	Students will develop reading and creative writing skills through Gothic fiction. They will explore themes of fear, morality, the supernatural and good versus evil while discussing how writers create atmosphere and engage readers.	Reading fluency. • Subject vocabulary. • Annotation and analytical writing. Sequencing events in the narrative. • Interpreting timelines and historical dates.	. Reading fluency. • Subject vocabulary. • Annotation and analytical writing. Sequencing events in the narrative. • Interpreting timelines and historical dates.
Disciplinary literacy	Reading and engaging with a range of high-quality wider reading sources to make informed interpretations	Critiquing how the writer's use of methods affect the meaning and reader's response of the text. -.	Reading a range of Gothic texts to make informed interpretations. Using literary terminology accurately. Analysing language, structure and writer's methods. Supporting ideas with precise textual evidence.	Reading a range of Gothic texts to make informed interpretations. Using literary terminology accurately. Analysing language, structure and writer's methods. Supporting ideas with precise textual evidence.	Use literary terminology accurately. • Support ideas with quotations. • Analyse language, structure and context using evidence.	Use literary terminology accurately. • Support ideas with quotations. • Analyse language, structure and context using evidence.
Careers	Throughout Year 8, students build the analytical, communication and critical thinking skills needed across a wide range of careers. Studying *Animal Farm* develops an understanding of politics, leadership, ethics and propaganda, linking to careers in politics, journalism, law and public service. The Gothic Reading and Writing unit develops creative writing, descriptive language and storytelling skills, supporting careers in writing, publishing, journalism, screenwriting, media, game design and the creative industries. *Small Island* encourages empathy and cultural awareness while exploring Britain's diverse history, linking to careers in teaching, social work, community engagement, healthcare and public services. Across all units, students strengthen transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, evaluation, resilience and problem-solving, preparing them for future education and employment.					

WELL-SEQUENCED **CONTEXUALISED/INCLUSIVE** **AMBITIOUS**