

English at Penwortham Girls' High School

We take a thematic approach to English at ks3. This means that each term we cover all aspects of English: fiction, non-fiction, literary heritage texts, literacy skills, poetry, and drama. We link these together each term with an overarching theme – this is designed to help students make links across different text types. All KS3 classes also read for pleasure every lesson. Texts are selected in conjunction with the themes of each unit of work; additionally, they support the PGHS school values and the personal development of all students.

Year 7

Autumn Term
Transition Unit – Go Big UNIT OBJECTIVE: to know and understand how I can succeed at PGHS Typical content will include: Non-fiction article <i>Embrace the Real You!</i> Extract of autobiographical writing <i>Mr Burton's First Day at School</i> Plus creative and transactional writing; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons
Myths & Monsters and The History of the English Language UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand what myths are and why they are still relevant. To know and understand how the English Language has developed over time. Typical content will include: Roman, Greek and Norse myths: <i>The Myth of Echo</i> <i>Pandora's box</i> (from Stephen Fry's <i>Mythos</i>) <i>Daedalus and Icarus</i> <i>Odysseus and the Cyclops</i> <i>Thor, Odin and Loki</i> (from Neil Gaiman's <i>Norse Mythology</i>) <i>The Creation of Thor's Hammer</i> Poetry and prose including literary heritage: Extract from <i>Beowulf</i> Extract from <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> 'Sonnet 130', William Shakespeare <i>The Tempest</i> , William Shakespeare Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers. We assess students' progress regularly via component tasks and summatively at the end of each unit of study. All students have access to Bedrock Learning: an online vocabulary and grammar program.
Spring Term
Gruesomely Gothic UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand what the gothic genre is. To know and understand how to write using conventions of the gothic genre. Typical content will include:

Extracts from prose including Literary Heritage:

The Black Cat, Edgar Allan Poe

The Tell-Tale Heart, Edgar Allan Poe

The Giant Under the Snow, John Gordon

Stone Tower, John Gordon

The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket

The Woman in Black, Susan Hill

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

Dracula, Bram Stoker

I am Legend, Richard Matheson

Interview with a Vampire, Anne Rice

'Quieter than Snow' by Berlie Doherty

Novel Study – *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand the conventions and features of a novel

All students will read the 'Awesomely Austen' adaptation of *Northanger Abbey*

Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers.

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Summer Term

Journeys and Adventures

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand the importance of journeys and how they shape the world we live in

Typical content will include:

The Secret Garden, Frances Hodgson Burnett

Jamaica Inn, Daphne du Maurier

'*Things We Carry on the Sea*', Wang Ping

A blog post by Alastair Humphreys

Bungee at Victoria Falls: The Day the Void Came for Me, Deborah O'Donoghue

Coming to England, Floella Benjamin

Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers.

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Year 8

Autumn Term

Coming of Age

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand how the Coming of Age genre is presented across a range of texts

Typical content will include:

Short Stories:

Eleven, Sandra Cisneros

When the Wasps Drowned, Clare Wigfall

A selection of poems from *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, William Blake

Edward Enfield and Holly Graham – articles based on ‘Kevin the Teenager’

Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers.

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Spring Term

Out of this World

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand the conventions of dystopian fiction, science fiction and fantasy

Typical content will include:

Extracts from Prose including literary heritage texts:

The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Harrison Bergeron by Kurt Vonnegut

Divergent by Veronica Roth

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

Interview with Tim Peake “I orbited the earth 2720 times”

Neil Armstrong’s last interview: rare glimpse of man and moon mission

Valentia Tereshkova – First Woman in Space

A Martian Sends a Postcard Home by Craig Raine

A Vision by Simon Armitage

Composed Upon Westminster Bridge by William Wordsworth

Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers.

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Summer Term

Powerful Women

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand how women have been presented over time

To know and understand the rhetoric of powerful women

Typical content will include:

Sense and Sensibility, Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

Mansfield Park, Jane Austen

Tess of the D’Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy

Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë
Great Expectations, Charles Dickens
The Mayor of Casterbridge, Thomas Hardy
A Kestrel for a Knave, Barry Hines
'Still I Rise', Maya Angelou
'Mother to Son' Langston Hughes
'Tilbury Speech' Queen Elizabeth I

Drama text study – Our Day Out

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand how to practically explore a play

All students will study 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell

Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers.

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Year 9

Autumn Term

CSI: PGHS (Crime Stories Investigation)

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand what makes crime writing such a popular and powerful genre

Typical content will include:

Three Women I Could Not Pity, Seymour Hicks

Joanna Dennehy: Serial killer becomes first woman told by judge to die in jail, Vikram Dodd

Voodoo, Fredric Brown

Nightmare in Yellow, Fredric Brown

Lamb to the Slaughter, Roald Dahl

'Porphyria's Lover', Robert Browning

'The Laboratory', Robert Browning

Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers.

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Spring Term

Rhetoric – Know Your Rights

The World We Live In

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand how famous speakers have used the power of the spoken word to have an impact on their listeners.

To know and understand why being able to speak up for yourself is important.

To know and understand perspective and how writers use rhetoric

Typical content will include:

“Fight them on the Beaches”, Winston Churchill
“I have a Dream”, Martin Luther King
“I am prepared to die”, Nelson Mandela
“We are here in our efforts to be lawmakers”, Emmeline Pankhurst
“Yes we can”, Barack Obama

Slums, Judith Flanders

Oliver Twist and the Workhouse, Ruth Richardson

Social Justice, The Big Issue

The Heat or Eat Diaries, The Guardian

Food Poverty has no place in 21st Century Britain, Imogen Richmond-Bishop

Walking the Breadline, Niall Cooper & Sarah Dumpleton

Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers.

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Summer Term

The Taming of the Shrew

19th Century Novel Study

UNIT OBJECTIVE: To know and understand how Shakespeare presents relationships between men and women.

To know and understand how characters and themes are developed throughout an entire novel

Typical content will include:

Extracts from *The Taming of the Shrew*, William Shakespeare

A 19th Century novel suited to the context of each class

Plus, creative and transactional writing; spoken language presentations; spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and class readers.

We assess students’ progress regularly via component tasks and summatively at the end of each unit of study.

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