

Elm Court School

English Curriculum Overview



Our English curriculum supports pupils in developing the core skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. English is taught thematically, and skills are taught at the point pupils are ready to access them. The themes and texts that are taught in our English curriculum are varied and engaging. Pupils will read: Shakespearean and contemporary drama; poetry; non-fiction texts; short stories and novels. Alongside preparing pupils for the qualifications that are right for them, a key focus during the study of English is that pupils are able to develop and express their views and feelings and cultivate a love of reading.

Pupils will complete formative reading and writing assessments each term. The results of these assessments will inform which exams pupils may be entered for. The qualifications which pupils may work toward are Entry levels 1 – 3 then functional skills level 1 and 2. Some pupils may also be entered for iGCSE. Pupils are entered for exams at the time that is right for them on their personal learning journey.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
<p>All About Me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will share information about themselves and get to know their peers• Say the names of the letters of the alphabet• Word types• Acrostic poem• Composing simple sentences• Instructions <p>Volunteering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Filling in forms• Writing lists• Developing vocabulary• Understand short statements and follow instructions. <p>Holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postcard	<p>All About Me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will share information about their likes and dislikes and learn about the preferences of their peers• Biography• News Report• Story writing• Instructions• Clearly express information, feelings, and opinions. <p>Volunteering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing notes• Application forms• Role adverts• Use a dictionary to find definitions	<p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will consider the big questions: ‘what makes a good teacher?’ and ‘what makes a good pupil?’.• Pupils will draw upon their experience at Elm Court and their transition from year 8 to year 9 in their work.• Write a diary entry and a report <p>Speaking and listening focus (Exhibitions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will develop their communication and presentation skills.• Pupils will discuss museums and exhibitions in central London.• Speech writing

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- Make clear statements
- Take part in discussions
- Speaking and listening

Adventure:

- Compound sentences
- Adverts
- Introducing inference
- Read simple sentences
- Use capital letters (including for 'I' and proper nouns) and full stops correctly.

Sports:

- Information texts
- Ask and respond to questions
- Make requests
- Study skills
- Understanding context

The Next Step:

- Understand a short text
- Advice
- Predictions
- Use lowercase letters when capital letters are required.
- Accurately write simple sentences accurately.

- Use the first and second letters of words to sequence in alphabetical order.

Holidays:

- Letters
- Leaflets
- Identify and extract information from short explanations.
- Use exclamation marks, question marks, and regular plurals correctly.

Adventure:

- Brochure
- Narrative structure
- Make appropriate contributions to group discussions.
- Use illustrations, images, and captions to locate information.

Sports:

- Newsletter
- Email
- Understand the main points and structural conventions of a text.
- Use audience and purpose to determine appropriate words and phrases.

The Next Step:

- Introduction to Shakespeare
- Review

Adventure:

- Pupils will read extracts from 'Touching the Void' by Joe Simpson. Viewing clips from the film adaptation will support comprehension and discussion of ideas.
- Write an account and a letter

Fashion:

- Pupils will be introduced to new texts such as adverts, instructions, and articles through the theme of fashion. The big question 'why do we have uniforms?' will also be explored.
- Write a blog and an article

Romeo and Juliet' By William Shakespeare:

- Through the study of this play, pupils will begin to explore the impact of language and how writers convey messages to their audience.
- Write a review and a text to advise

Culture and Identity Poetry:

- Pupils will read, discuss, and analyse work by contemporary poets some of whom are local to South London.
- Write an email and a newsletter

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking and listening • Read and understand sentences with more than one piece of information. • Accurately write using compound sentences, adjectives, and linking words 	
<p>Year 10</p>	<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Sixth Form</p>
<p>Speaking and listening focus (Step Up to the Mic) The focus during this half term will be for pupils to verbally share information, opinions, and ideas Pupils will watch a variety of speeches and discussions and consider what good speakers and listeners do. Pupils will have discussions with peers to share their opinions</p> <p>A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens Pupils will study the story, historical context, and themes of this Dickensian novel.</p> <p>Gothic Literature Pupils will engage with a variety of short extracts from classic gothic texts such as 'Dracula' and 'The Tell-Tale Heart'.</p> <p>Crime During this unit of work, pupils will explore the conventions of a variety of texts and develop the composition of their own writing. Pupils will also discuss the</p>	<p>Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck Pupils will consider the themes, messages, and allusions of this classic American novella.</p> <p>Speaking and listening focus ('Loose Change' by Andrea Levy*) The focus during this half term will be for pupils to develop their use of rhetoric, discussion skills, and debate skills.</p> <p>Power Poetry During this unit of work, pupils will consider the themes and messages of work by various poets from those of the Romantic movement to contemporary feminist poets. Pupils will also write their own protest poems.</p> <p>Music Pupils will identify different musical genres and compare and contrast the qualities of those genres. The theme of music will act as a starting point for practicing the composition of a range of transactional texts.</p>	<p>Exploring There will be a particular focus on developing creative writing during this unit of work. Pupils will engage with a variety of exploration stories and multimedia clips for inspiration.</p> <p>Speaking and listening focus ('The Pearl' by John Steinbeck**) Pupils will prepare for their final speaking and listening assessments.</p> <p>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' by Simon Stephens (play) Pupils will discuss the themes of the play and develop their understanding of the conventions of drama.</p> <p>Conflict poetry Pupils will learn about the context of World War One and explore the views of people affected by the war through the exploration of poetry written at the time.</p> <p>Dystopian fiction Within this unit of work, pupils will consider the concepts of dystopian and</p>

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big question of how society decides what constitutes a crime.

Heroism

Pupils will debate what makes a hero before looking at extracts from 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo and non-fiction texts about Harriet Tubman and Mary Seacole.

The Odyssey' by Homer

Pupils will study the story, themes, context, and messages of this Greek myth.

'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare

Through the study of this play, pupils will build on their understanding of the power of language and begin to interpret Shakespeare's structural choices.

Final exam preparation.

utopian worlds. Pupils will analyse extracts from a variety of texts which explore dystopian ideas.

Final exam preparation.

Through this thematic work, pupils will be taught how to:

- create different forms of writing, for example: completion of application forms, leaflets, articles, letters, diaries, monologues, personal statements, reviews, stories or story openings, descriptions
- write to inform, persuade, explain, and entertain

Homework:

Pupils will complete one of the following homework. The homework set will be appropriate for the pupil's reading level.

- Pupils developing phonic skills will complete spellings, short writing tasks, and [decoding tasks](#).
- Lexia Core 5. Core 5 is an interactive online programme which helps pupils master foundational reading skills.
- Lexia - Power Up. Power Up is a computer-based program that adapts instruction to the specific needs of adolescent learners. The activities in Power Up support and build on Elm Court's English curriculum, focusing on developing reading skills in three areas: word study, grammar, and comprehension.

How you can support your child in English:

To support your child with phonic skills (early reading) and if you have an Apple device, you can download the Sounds-Write App

<https://sounds-write.co.uk/ipad-app/>

If directed by your child's English teacher, encourage your child to make regular use of Lexia Power Up

<https://www.lexiapowerup.com/>. Using Lexia for 20 minutes per day supports learning across skill areas of word study, grammar, and comprehension.

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Encourage your child to read widely and engage in conversation with them about what they have read using the below questions and working through the levels:

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
What's this? Show me a...	What are they doing? Where are they? How are these two different?	What could they say? What might happen next? What else... (flies)? What happened to..?	What would you do if? What could they do? How can we tell...? Why will..? Why did...? Why wouldn't...? What will happen if...?

Please keep in touch with the English department; if you feel your child is struggling or requires further challenge – let us know. Emails can be sent to: admin@elmcourt.lambeth.sch.uk