



Vyners School

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Excellence

# Welcome to the English Department



## Staff:

- Mrs Nicholls, Subject Leader
- Ms Connolly, Deputy Subject Leader (KS5)
- Ms Duran, Assistant Subject Leader (KS4)
- Ms Goode, Assistant Subject Leader (KS3)
- Ms Harvey, Deputy Headteacher
- Ms Hockley, Year 11 Leader
- Ms Baccam
- Mr Dennis
- Mr West
- Ms Veronese
- Ms Hussain
- Mr White
- Miss Simmons



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# Our Year 7 Curriculum

In Year 7, Vyners students study a Mastery Curriculum building on the students' reading, writing and oracy skills. They explore conflict and revolution through the study of *Animal Farm*, followed by Shakespearean comedies, before moving on to an anthology of poems and non-fiction texts exploring *The World Around Us*.



***“I was worried about the jump from Year 6, but I found the learning fun and challenging”  
Year 8 Student***





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# Our Year 8 Curriculum

In Year 8, Vyners students continue to study a Mastery Curriculum building on the students' reading, writing and oracy skills. They explore effective creative writing and literary analysis through the study of the Gothic genre and *A Christmas Carol*, followed by Shakespearean tragedies, before moving on to a Myths and Legends collection, focusing on oral tradition in *The Odyssey* and *Beowulf*.





## Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At GCSE, students are entered for GCSE qualifications with AQA. Students will study a range of fiction texts for their Literature exams including Shakespeare, modern drama, 19th c. novel and a poetry anthology. For Language, they will build on their Key Stage 3 skills to become proficient writers of fiction and non-fiction texts across a variety of genres and forms, as well as developing reading skills such as comparison, synthesis and evaluation.



*“I was really challenged by my teacher to read widely for pleasure and this massively helped me read and write about texts at GCSE.”*  
*Year 11 Student*



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# Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum



OCR

At A Level, students have the opportunity to study towards qualifications with OCR. Students will study Shakespeare, Drama and Poetry pre-1900, American Literature, a coursework portfolio of two tasks (critical analysis of poetry and comparing themes of conflict in a 20th c. drama and 21st c. novel).

*“The enrichment challenges that we present to our group helped me contextualise the texts, boosted my grades and helped me think outside the box.”*

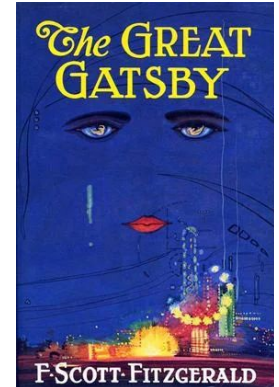
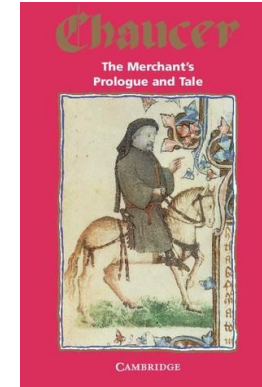
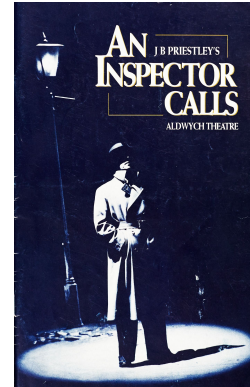
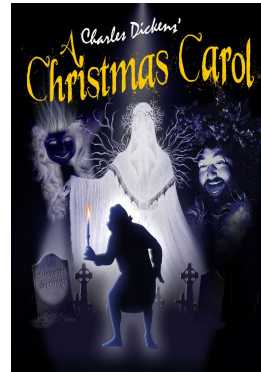
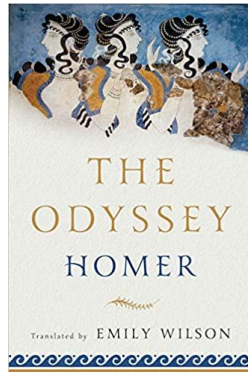
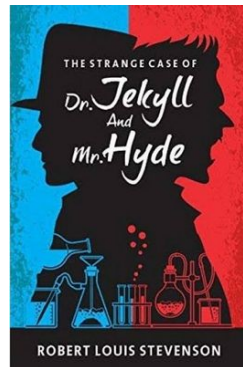
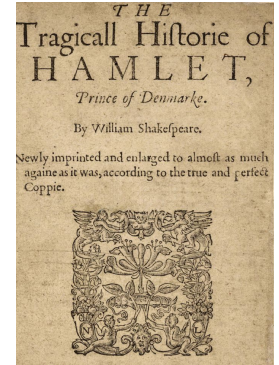
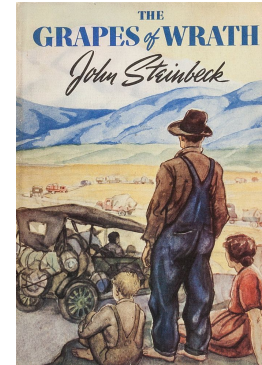
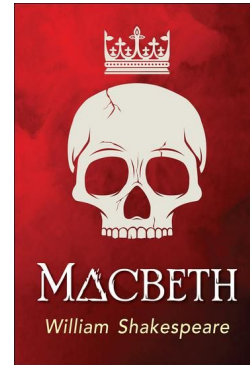
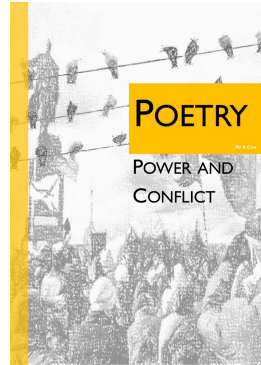
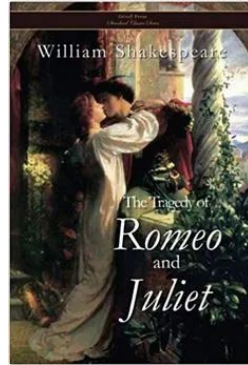
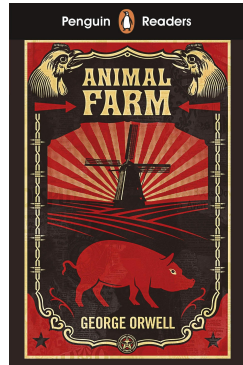
*Year 13 Student*





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## Reading for Pleasure

Reading a wide range of texts for pleasure and enrichment is a central part of our approach, throughout the three Key Stages. This includes:

- ★ Weekly DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) sessions;
- ★ *Reading for Pleasure* novels in Years 7, 8 and 9;
- ★ Super-curriculum enrichment reading tasks;
- ★ Book Buzz - opportunities for Year 7 and 8 students to buy discounted 'best sellers'.





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# Our Supercurriculum

Students are invited to participate in a variety of enrichment opportunities across all Key Stages, such as the termly projects that all students are encouraged to complete as well as workshops such as poetry competitions and the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

Past trips have included Stratford Upon Avon to see Shakespeare plays, London theatre trips to see *An Inspector Calls* and *Translations* as well as Harrow School lectures led by academics from world-renowned universities.

Students in KS4 watch their texts come to life in play adaptations which are faithful to the texts. These are performed in the School Hall by external theatre companies.



Jack Petchey's  
"SPEAK OUT"  
Challenge!



## Frequently Asked Questions

***How do teachers assess work in English?*** In Key Stage Three, pupils are assessed on the three core Literacy skills each term: Reading, Writing and Oracy. Pupils practise the skills often in class and are then assessed by their teacher in a final assessment. In Key Stage Four, pupils are assessed on a half-termly basis, with an opportunity for teacher feedback before the final assessment, using the GCSE mark schemes. Similarly, at Key Stage Five, teachers use the A Level mark schemes to mark essay work on a regular basis.

***What does Home Learning look like in English?*** Home Learning is set on a weekly basis using Google Classroom. At Key Stage Three, pupils complete Bedrock Vocabulary lessons, an online vocabulary curriculum that assesses an individual pupil's level and ability and helps them to master more ambitious vocabulary. Pupils are also provided with activities that allow them to practise the skills they are assessed on independently. At Key Stage Four, the focus on vocabulary continues whilst pupils are also encouraged to develop essential revision skills, such as the use of Personal Learning Checklists, independent research and the memorisation of key quotations. We follow the EPT (Explain, Practice, Test) learning model to ensure that Home Learning is used to revise essential knowledge and skills.



## Frequently Asked Questions

***How will my child be supported in English lessons?*** From Key Stage Three through to Key Stage Five, all skills developed within English lessons are carefully modelled by teachers. We make use of the EPT (Explain, Practice, Test) learning model to ensure that pupils gain confidence in using core skills before we test them. From sentence starters to talking frames, pupils are provided with prompts and supportive structures in every lesson.

***How will my child be challenged in English lessons?*** The nature of the Mastery curriculum allows us to approach more challenging texts with our pupils, as well as studying them in great depth. From Year 7 onwards, we embed the skills needed to be successful in A Level English, such as the study of literary critics, and introduce them to students over the course of their Key Stage Three and Four study.

***How do you encourage pupils to read for pleasure?*** The school runs a weekly reading initiative called DEaR (Drop Everything and Read) in which the whole school reads for pleasure simultaneously for 20 minutes. A Reading Rewards programme allows pupils to gain merits and prizes for reading and reviewing books. Tailored reading lists have been created for each Key Stage and we also take part in local projects, such as the Hillingdon Book of the Year.





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**We look forward to meeting you in  
September 2024!**