

## Key Stage 3 English at Bristol Metropolitan Academy

We equip students with the literacy skills required to excel in all areas of their school life and beyond, promote a passion for reading, and instil a love of language and literature in all its forms.

English at KS3 is divided into two discreet sections, which are outlined below:

### Home lessons

Year 7 students have home lessons three times per week and Year 8 students have home lessons twice per week. They focus mainly on core writing and spelling skills, which are at the heart of the school curriculum. This is also when students will take part in the **Accelerated Reader** scheme.

In home lessons, students work in smaller groups with others of a similar ability level.

All lessons begin with a five minute spelling rules starter. The starters encourage students to explore the patterns and conventions of spellings. There is a list provided for all staff to follow, allowing for coverage across the whole year of a range of rules.

At the end of each term, home lesson teachers conduct a writing assessment, as outlined in the KS3 overview of the year, which will be levelled and marks recorded on the shared English tracker.

2014/2015 Assessments:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Baseline assessment: Horror story opening	Formal letter to Mrs Apps	Email to local MP	Descriptive writing	Narrative writing	End of year exam

### Year 7 Away lessons

Students read three contemporary novels across the course of the academic year.

Away lessons engage students with a broad range of high-quality literature, non-fiction, poetry, which is be interwoven by teachers into lessons depending on the book being read. The novel is a hook on which to hang a wide range of texts.

Homework is set in Away lessons using Homework Booklets.

## **Year 8 Away lessons**

Students in Year 8 read three major texts across the course of the academic year.

They will begin by reading a literary heritage play and a contemporary play in Terms 1 and 2, before moving on to work on units focussing on English through the ages, travel writing and advertising and the media.

There will be at least one assessment each term, a number of which will be conducted in formal exam conditions this year.

## **Accelerated Reader**

Accelerated Reader is a computer-centred scheme that promotes and improves engagement with reading for all pupils in Year 7 and Year 8. Students are encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes daily and visit the library once a fortnight during their home lessons.

### **How the scheme operates**

Pupils take a short STAR reading test during the first weeks of their time at the academy. This test generates a ZPD or 'reading range' for each student, as well as providing useful diagnostic information for their teachers. ZPD codes are shared with pupils who can then select books which meet their needs and level of ability from the range of AR books in the library.

Teachers take their Home literacy groups to use the Learning Resource Centre (including library and computers) once a fortnight. This provides pupils with time to select new books or take quizzes, while teachers discuss progress and offer support to their students.

### **Parental engagement with Accelerated Reader**

'Home Connect' allows parents and carers to see what their child has been reading and how successful they have been in quizzing on the books they have read. You will receive a letter detailing how you can access this

### **Monitoring and testing**

Students are tested using STAR Reader in January and May to check that they are making progress in their reading.

## **Year 9 English**

Year 9 bridges the gap from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4.

In the first term of students read a literary heritage play by Shakespeare or another high-profile writer. In their second term they read a contemporary novel and in term three study literature from other cultures. They undertake a termly assessment.