

### English Department Statement of Intent: KS3

At Mount Saint Joseph's Catholic High School, we have devised an ambitious English curriculum that is broad, balanced and challenging for all students. Our provision at KS3 builds on the skills taught at KS2 and ensures that each individual is fully prepared for the next stage in their education and the rigors of the KS4 GCSE specifications. Our aim is to nurture effective communicators, readers, writers and thinkers. Through the study of English Language and Literature we strive to challenge our learners to think deeply, to develop rich subject knowledge and to master a firm foundation of literacy skills to equip them for the future.

While we strive to help our students achieve examination success, our primary goal is to develop well-rounded citizens who will contribute effectively to the community and the wider world around them. In lessons, and through extra-curricular provision, our English curriculum ensures that vital knowledge and skills are intertwined.

At KS3, our students will have the opportunity to participate in discussions, debates and formal presentations, thus developing essential life skills such as the ability to articulate their ideas and viewpoints confidently. We immerse our learners in a vast range of reading stimulus, both fiction and non-fiction and we build the Cultural Capital of our students by teaching texts in context, studying the work of both traditional and contemporary writers from a range of times, cultures and traditions. Wider reading is further encouraged and supported by the on-line reading challenge and recommended reading lists. Progression is carefully planned to build on the literacy skills developed at KS2. We strive to forge effective writers who are able to utilise ambitious vocabulary and appropriate structural devices to express their ideas in a range of forms and for a variety of purposes.

The sophistication of skills gradually increases each year throughout this key stage, with targeted support available for individual students as necessary. It is a shared commitment within the teaching team to ensure that every member of the MSJ family achieves their full potential within this core subject and begins KS4 fully equipped for the demands of the KS4 curriculum.