

Faculty - Link

Functional Skills - English

The intent of the Functional Skills English Curriculum

The intent of the Functional Skills curriculum is to build students' communication skills in writing, reading, speaking and listening for life, learning and work. During lessons, students will work towards improving the effectiveness of their written composition. Writing instruction will aim to build upon students' existing skills and knowledge of writing for different purposes and audiences and use of accurate grammar, spelling and punctuation. Reading instruction within the curriculum aims to support students' ability to identify key information within a range of texts as well as to formulate suitable responses with confidence and detail. Students will work to improve their speaking and listening communication skills by preparing for formal presentations and discussions, where they will practice and develop the skills required to express their point of view clearly and appropriately as well as to make relevant contributions and responses to the points of view of others sensitively and thoughtfully.

The Implementation of the Functional Skills English Curriculum

Syllabus: AQA Level 1 and 2 Functional Skills in English *Specification codes 8720 & 8725.*

Students will have 5 x 1 hour lessons over the two week timetable.

Term	Y9	Y10	Y11
Autumn term	<p>Informative writing development using texts on a range of remarkable characters as stimulus material.</p> <p>Development of knowledge and skills to be able to identify writers' use of language for effect using a range of texts based on 'Voices of War' as stimulus material.</p>	<p>Development of skills necessary for reading and producing informative texts following the topic of Powerful Females.</p> <p>Development of the knowledge and skills necessary for identifying writer's opinions and their use of language for effect using the novel 'Martin Pigg' and a variety of media articles as stimulus material.</p>	<p>Recap knowledge and skills necessary to identify writers' use of language for effect.</p> <p>Develop knowledge of structural features in texts.</p> <p>Recap informative writing skills and skills necessary for communication of ideas and opinions (with evidence) using the novel 'The Book Thief' as stimulus material.</p>
Spring term	<p>Development of skills required to present a view point with explanation and evidence using the plays 'Macbeth' and 'Burning Everest' as stimulus material.</p>	<p>Development of informative writing skills; research skills; skills to support communication of ideas and opinions (with evidence); and language development skills using the novels 'The Boy in Striped</p>	<p>Recap knowledge and skills necessary for identifying writer's opinions and their use of language for effect using the novel 'Lord of the Flies' as stimulus material.</p> <p>Continuing to build</p>

		Pjamas' and 'One Shot' as stimulus material.	research skills and skills necessary to communicate personal points of view (supported by evidence) based on current affairs topics.
Summer term	Continuing development of the knowledge and skills necessary to identify writers' use of language for effect and descriptive writing development using the novels 'Private Peaceful' and 'Skellig' as stimulus material.	Exam preparation. Summer exams	Exam preparation External Exams

The Impact of the Functional Skills English Curriculum

In year 9, students will complete a series of three externally set, non-exam assessments intended to result in an Entry Level 3 qualification at the end of year 9. In years 10 and 11, Students will be assessed externally through Functional Skills Levels 1 and 2 examinations. These examinations take the form of two external papers per level (one reading and one writing). Students will also be required to complete non-exam assessments as part of the qualification process and these form the speaking and listening component of the qualification. Internally, students' progress will be monitored through the completion of short and extended written tasks; verbal and written response to a variety of reading material; class discussions and presentations; and mock exam papers.

Ways In Which Parents Can Help

- Encouraging students to read a range of materials including novels, magazines, newspapers, information leaflets.
- Provide students with easy access to newspapers and magazines.
- Discuss current affairs with students at home.
- Encouraging students to watch a range of documentaries and listen to a range of informative podcasts.
- Encourage students to visit museums and places of interest.