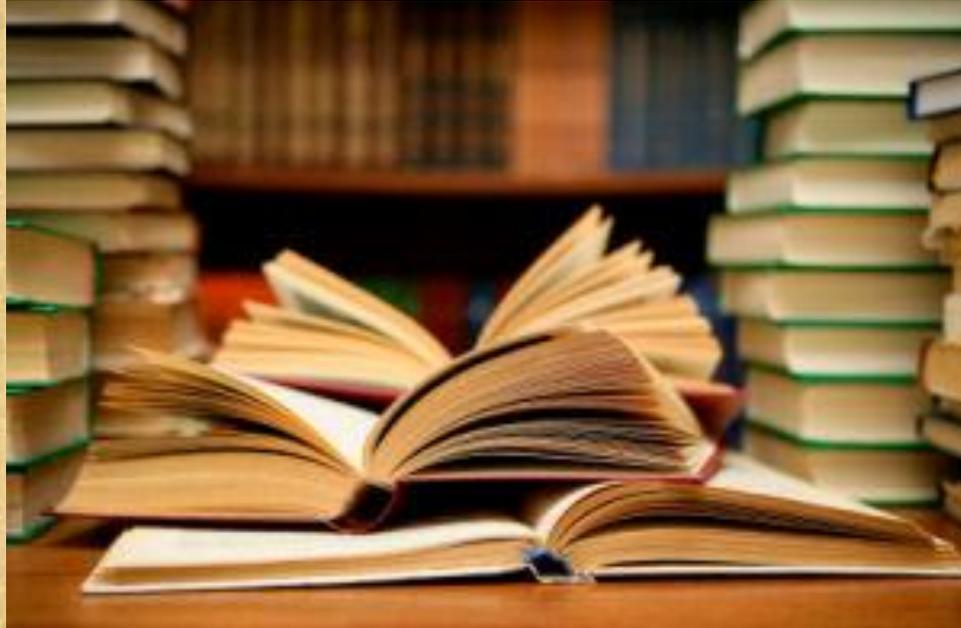


Welcome to English!



Ms A Dewhirst

Key Stage 3 English Co-ordinator

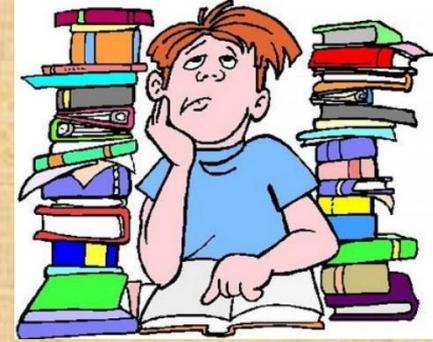
adewhirst@sackvilleschool.org.uk

Starter Activity

Make a list or mind map of the things that you expect your child will be doing in English at secondary school.



Lessons



Your child has three lessons of English every week.

These may be split across two teachers, depending on timetabling constraints.

Each lesson starts with ten minutes of independent reading – students must have a reading book with them every day.

Once a fortnight, they will have a lesson in the library, where they will work on the **Accelerated Reader** programme.

Lessons will cover a range of topics, from Shakespeare to descriptive writing to poetry, in order to meet the requirements of the updated National Curriculum.

Accelerated Reader

Each child's reading level is assessed at the beginning of the term with a computer-adaptive **STAR test**.

Library books are labelled according to their level of reading difficulty.

Students read books at the level that is right for them; the program is differentiated so that it meets your child's exact level of ability.

After reading each book, students take a quiz to check their understanding.

Students' progress is checked regularly and students are rewarded for reading a certain number of books.

Accelerated Reader

Research conducted by Accelerated Reader demonstrates that students make the most rapid progress when they are reading for **25 minutes per day**.

Some of this is done in school, but in order to reach 25 minutes per day, some reading must be done at home too.

The other vital factor is that students are reading books at an appropriate level of difficulty.

<http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> can be used by anyone to check the reading level of a book.

Reading

every child
every day

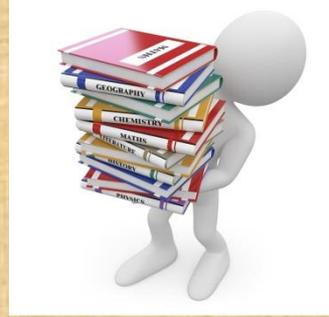
Reading underpins absolutely everything we do. Its importance cannot be overstated.

It is vital to your child's progress in English as well as their overall literacy, which affects all areas of the curriculum.

Reluctant readers may need to have good reading habits modelled for them by other family members. Take fifteen minutes a day to stop and read as a family.

Establish a daily reading routine so it becomes part of everyday life – reading before bed works well for many reluctant readers.

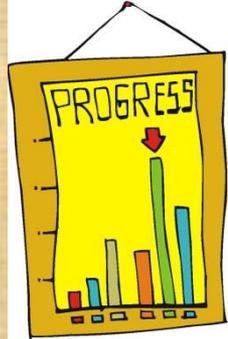
Curriculum Changes



There have, and will continue to be, many changes to the curriculum which affect how we teach your child.

- Significantly more emphasis placed on spelling, punctuation and grammar (across all subjects).
- Movement away from modern texts and texts from other cultures towards English Literary Heritage and pre-twentieth century texts.
- More challenging, unseen texts.
- Removal of National Curriculum levels (replaced by K steps at Sackville).
- 100% exam-assessed GCSEs graded 1-9.

Assessment



Due to the removal of levels, Sackville School has developed a system of 'K Steps' which indicate the level at which your child is working.

These do not relate to National Curriculum levels.

Your child will be given formative targets when their work is assessed, and they will be expected to make progress towards those targets.



Support & Intervention

All lessons are differentiated to provide support and challenge to students where needed.

Students who need the most support are placed in a smaller group where they can receive more attention and assistance.

Some students may also work in separate literacy groups if this has been identified as an area of need.

Students' progress is regularly monitored and target students are identified for intervention to work on specific skills.

What can you do?



The sheet you have been given provides a range of suggestions for how you can support your child in reading.

The most important factor is ensuring that they read at home each day.

Reading regularly will improve all aspects of their English ability and literacy.