

English Curriculum Overview 2024-2025

Our English curriculum supports pupils in developing the core skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. English is taught thematically, and skills are taught at the point pupils are ready to access them. The themes and texts that are taught in our English curriculum are varied and engaging. Pupils will read: Shakespearean and contemporary drama; poetry; non-fiction texts; short stories and novels. Alongside preparing pupils for the qualifications which are right for them, a key focus during the study of English is to develop and express their views and feelings and cultivate a love of reading.

Pupils will complete a formative reading or writing assessment each term. The results of these assessments will inform which unit awards or exams pupils may be entered for. Some pupils will complete AQA unit awards which are an acknowledgement of achievement in English and literacy skills. The qualifications which pupils may work toward are Entry levels 1 – 3. Some pupils may also be entered for functional skills level 1 or iGCSE. Pupils are entered for exams at the time that is right for them on their personal learning journey.

Years 7 and 8	Year 9
<p>All About Me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils will share information about themselves and get to know their classmates • Say the names of the letters of the alphabet • Word types • Acrostic poem • Composing simple sentences • Clearly express information, feelings and opinions. <p>Volunteering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffixes and prefixes • Mind mapping • Filling in forms • Writing lists • Developing vocabulary • Understand short statements and follow instructions. <p>Holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postcard • Writing to advise • Make clear statements • Take part in discussions 	<p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils will consider the big questions: ‘what makes a good teacher?’ and ‘what makes a good pupil?’. • Pupils will draw upon their experience at Elm Court and their transition from year 8 to year 9 in their work. • Write a diary entry and a report <p>Speaking and listening focus (Exhibitions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils will develop their communication and presentation skills. • Pupils will discuss museums and exhibitions in central London. • Speech writing <p>Adventure:</p>

- To express opinions
- To engage in a discussion with a classmate

Adventure:

- Compound sentences
- Writing adverts/brochures
- Introducing inference
- Read simple sentences
- Use capital letters (including for 'I' and proper nouns) and full stops correctly.
- Use illustrations, images and captions to locate information.
- Comparing and contrasting

Sports:

- Information texts
- Practise sequencing skills
- Developing comprehension skills
- Ask and respond to questions
- Make requests
- Study skills
- Understanding context
- Writing lists
- Writing emails

The Next Step:

- Developing recount skills
- Exploring likes and dislikes
- Understanding vocabulary linked to time
- Review writing
- Report writing
- Talking about the future

- Pupils will read extracts from 'Touching the Void' by Joe Simpson. Viewing clips from the film adaptation will support comprehension and discussion of ideas.
- Write an account and a letter

Fashion:

- Pupils will be introduced to new texts such as adverts, instructions and articles through the theme of fashion. The big question 'why do we have uniforms?' will also be explored.
- Write a blog and an article

Romeo and Juliet' By William

Shakespeare:

- Through the study of this play, pupils will begin to explore the impact of language and how writers convey messages to their audience.
- Write a review and a text to advise

Culture and Identity Poetry:

- Pupils will read, discuss and analyse work by contemporary poets some of whom are local to South London.
- Write an email and a newsletter

Year 10	Year 11	Sixth Form
<p>African Folk-Tales During this unit of work, pupils will explore traditional African folk tales. The folk tales will be used as a starting point for developing comprehension and composition skills and the unit will culminate with pupils composing their own folk tale.</p> <p>A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens Pupils will study the story, historical context and themes of this Dickensian novel.</p> <p>Gothic Literature Pupils will engage with a variety of short extracts from classic gothic texts such as 'Dracula' and 'The Tell-Tale Heart'.</p> <p>Crime During this unit of work, pupils will explore the conventions of a variety of texts and develop composition of their own writing.</p> <p>Heroism Pupils will learn what makes a hero before looking at extracts from 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo and non-fiction texts about superheroes.</p> <p>The Odyssey' by Homer Pupils will study the story, themes, context and messages of this Greek myth.</p>	<p>Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck Pupils will consider the themes, messages and allusions of this classic American novella.</p> <p>Short stories Pupils will read a variety of short stories focusing on the theme of respect. The unit will provide opportunities for discussion about our society and support pupils in developing their own opinions and ideas.</p> <p>Power Poetry During this unit of work, pupils will consider the themes and messages of work by various poets from those of the Romantic movement to contemporary feminist poets.</p> <p>Music Pupils will identify different musical genres and compare and contrast the qualities of those genres. The theme of music will act as a starting point for practising the composition of a range of transactional texts.</p> <p>Macbeth' by William Shakespeare Through the study of this play, pupils will build on their understanding of the power of language and begin to interpret Shakespeare's linguistic and structural choices. Some pupils will spend this half-term focusing on speaking and listening exam preparation.</p> <p>Final exam preparation.</p>	<p>Exploring There will be a particular focus on developing creative writing during this unit of work. Pupils will engage with a variety of exploration stories and multimedia clips for inspiration.</p> <p>'The Pearl' by John Steinbeck Pupils will explore the story and message of this short novella.</p> <p>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' by Simon Stephens (play) Pupils will discuss the themes of the play and develop their understanding of the conventions of drama.</p> <p>Conflict poetry Pupils will learn about the context of World War One and explore the views of people affected by the war through the exploration of poetry written at the time.</p> <p>Dystopian fiction Within this unit of work, pupils will consider the concepts of dystopian and utopian worlds. Pupils will analyse extracts from a variety of texts which explore dystopian ideas. Some pupils will spend this half-term focusing on speaking and listening exam preparation.</p> <p>Final exam preparation.</p>

Through this thematic work, pupils will be taught how to:

- create different forms of writing, for example: completion of application forms, leaflets, articles, letters, diaries, monologues, personal statements, reviews, stories or story openings, descriptions
- write to inform, persuade, explain and entertain

Homework:

Pupils will complete one of the following homework. The homework set will be appropriate for the pupil’s reading level.

- Pupils developing phonic skills will complete spellings, short writing tasks, and [decoding tasks](#).
- Lexia Core 5. Core 5 is an interactive online programme which helps pupils master foundational reading skills.
- Lexia - Power Up. Power Up is a computer-based program that adapts instruction to the specific needs of adolescent learners. The activities in Power Up support and build on Elm Court’s English curriculum, focusing on developing reading skills in three areas: word study, grammar, and comprehension.

How you can support your child in English:

To support your child with phonic skills (early reading) and if you have an Apple device, you can download the Sounds-Write App <https://sounds-write.co.uk/ipad-app/>

If directed by your child’s English teacher, encourage your child to make regular use of Lexia Power Up <https://www.lexiapowerup.com/>. Using Lexia for 20 minutes per day supports learning across skill areas of word study, grammar and comprehension.

Encourage your child to read widely and engage in conversation with them about what they have read using the below questions and working through the levels:

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
What’s this? Show me a...	What are they doing? Where are they? How are these two different?	What could they say? What might happen next? What else... (flies)? What happened to...?	What would you do if? What could they do? How can we tell...? Why will...? Why did...? Why wouldn’t...? What will happen if...?

Please keep in touch with the English department; if you feel your child is struggling or requires further challenge – let us know. Emails can be sent to: admin@elmcourt.lambeth.sch.uk