Curriculum Rationale and Overview



Subject: English Year group: 8

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
National Curriculum context						
Scheme of Learning Title:	The Art of Rhetoric	Introduction to Dickens	Introduction to the Gothic	Drama: Frankenstein	Introduction to Poetry	Novel Study: Stone Cold
What will students know?	The features of effective persuasive writing.	The main Dickensian contexts.	The features of Gothic writing.	How Gothic features impact meaning in a play.	How to read a poem to understand its meaning.	Writer's intention. What is homelessness? What drives people to become homeless?
What will students understand?	The DAMPFOREST techniques used in persuasive writing. The three core elements that compose persuasive writing- ethos, pathos, logos.	Attitudes in Dickens' time. Poverty Industrial Revolution Social reform	How writers use specific elements in Gothic novels. Pathetic fallacy Obscurity Character traits Setting	How Pullman uses Gothic features to influence an audience, in Frankenstein: the play.	How language and structure shapes meaning in poetry. Structure Structure Stanzas Line lengths Rhythm Rhyme Punctuation Language language techniques, in the context of poetry	How Swindells use language techniques to convey his message. Dual narrative, authorial intent, Injustice, Hopelessness, Exploitation, Vulnerability, Prejudice

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What will students be able to do?	Write and deliver an effective persuasive speech, making use of all persuasive features.	Read a range of extracts from Dickens' novels and identify the contextual links.	Use elements of Gothic literature in their own writing.	Identify and explain the impact of Gothic features on the audience.	Identify and explain the impact of language and structural features, and how they create meaning, in poetry.	Analysing writers' methods at word, sentence and whole text level. Continuing to develop character tracking in order to develop a critical viewpoint about a character.
How will they be formally assessed?	Task: Students will plan, write and deliver a persuasive speech responding to the question 'Is social media dangerous?'	Knowledge Test Task: Educake quiz	Creative task. Task: Provide students with an image to create their own Gothic story opening.	Analytical Writing Task: Provide students with an extract from the play, which they will analyse by identifying and commenting on the effect of Gothic features on the audience, through writing two/three analytical paragraphs.	Analytical task: Task: Students will select one structural feature and one language feature from a given poem to analyse through annotation.	Analytical Writing Task: Students will answer an analytical question regarding writer's intentions.