

COMMUNICATION STUDIES SUBJECT CURRICULUM OUTLINE 2023-2024

Term	Topic/Unit of work	Knowledge	Skills	Assessment
Autumn Term 1	Reflection and Discovery	<p>The introductory unit for Communication Studies focuses on reading and understanding non-fiction extracts and poetry about four inspirational figures linking to the Vandyke house system: Ellie Simmonds, Mary Seacole, Benjamin Zephaniah and Alan Turing. The unit fosters a culture of reading and encourages pupils to access texts in different ways, enhancing their reading, decoding, comprehension and analysis skills as well as enriching their cultural capital. Students will be exposed to texts from a range of time periods and from differing perspectives to encourage evaluation and debate. Alongside reading, pupils will be provided with opportunity to consider wider concepts including identity, place and prejudice, encouraging critical thinking skills. Opportunities to use oracy are key throughout this unit as pupils are encouraged to discuss, debate and problem solve. Cross-curricular links play a central role to Communication Studies and within this unit pupils are encouraged to consider themselves and their own aspirations, particularly in regards to personal goals and career ambitions. The unit aims to foster a culture of reading and enable pupils to build confidence, communication skills and access inspirational texts in a supported and enjoyable way.</p>		Reading comprehension
Autumn 2	Murder Mystery	<p>This unit of work begins with a young adult verse text, Long Way Down, which follows protagonist Will as he reflects on his brother's murder and decides which course of action to take. The modern, highly accessible text introduces themes of mystery, loss, guilt and conflict and enables students to read and enjoy a story together. Wider understanding of character, genre, themes and form are explored as well as scope for discussion around engaging, relevant social issues such as gun violence and gangs, which will expose students to a different side of life. For the second half of the unit, students will explore the concept of murder mystery more broadly, with a focus on the genre as a whole. Students will read fiction and non-fiction to broaden their understanding of genre tropes and explore a range of texts of different medias from different time periods. Reading, inference, analysis and oracy skills are built in throughout and the unit provides creative tasks to allow students to build upon understanding of genre, structure and vocabulary. An NGRT at this stage will enable teachers and pupils to evaluate reading age data so far and ensure appropriate strategies are in place going forward.</p>		NGRT

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Spring Term 1	Orbiting Jupiter	<p>The aim of this unit of work is to introduce students to the prose novel of the curriculum, Orbiting Jupiter. This text is a young adult fiction which explores themes of belonging, relationships, responsibility and morality and focuses on a family who adopt a teenage father. This text is an excellent vehicle to continue promoting enjoyment of reading through engaging plot, character and themes and requires students to build upon their knowledge and understanding of reading, inference and analysis. Continued confidence in reading will be built upon throughout as students engage in different reading strategies to enjoy this text together. The themes and ideas in Orbiting Jupiter offers scope for debate, discussion, research and evaluation into a range of poignant topics. These include family and adoption, legalities, teen pregnancy and the prison system; the relevant and complex links aim to engage students not only in the text, but the wider world around them. By the end of the unit students should feel increasingly confident in reading as they have completed a full novel. This unit aims to provide students with the skills needed to access fuller, richer texts as they continue their education.</p>	Reading comprehension
Spring 2	Music and Media	<p>In the final unit of Communication Studies, students are given more autonomy and flexibility to promote responsibility, self-discipline and time management. The aim of this unit is to allow students to investigate music and media through a broad, exploratory lens, with a focus on the idea of creating a school radio. Accessing a range of texts and medias is central to this unit and enriches cultural capital as well as exposing students to different forms, perspectives and voices. Following the more structured reading units, this unit enables students to apply their understanding of texts in a more creative way to work on skills such as communication, research, creative writing, editing and team building. The general topic provides scope for discussion and debate regarding media, reliability of sources and modern day society. Life skills are embedded within this unit as students have opportunity to conduct their own research, explore careers and deliver presentations. Building confidence through being able to read, decode and form opinions is central to the intent of the Communication Studies curriculum and is solidified in this final unit. The final NGRT will enable students and teachers to reflect on their progress and instil a sense of achievement as they move up into Year 10.</p>	NGRT