

“When we read great literature, something changes in us that stays changed. Literature remembered becomes material to think with.”

Donald Hall

English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. We believe that a high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others. Toot Hill pupils will encounter challenging and thought-provoking texts in order to master the ideas, concepts and stories that have shaped the world. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. The English curriculum is developed to equip our pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for pleasure.

Whilst our English curriculum uses the National curriculum as its anchor, we have developed a curriculum which:

- Provides students with powerful knowledge that will encourage critical thinking and develop their natural curiosity.
- Ensures that powerful knowledge is recalled and embedded through a process of interleaving topics and self-testing.
- Fosters a love of literature through dedicated reading for pleasure time.
- Will improve student retention of knowledge, developing their confidence in reading and understanding a variety of challenging texts.
- Teaches beyond what is simply required by the exams and develops cultural literacy.
- Exposes students to key works from the literary canon, enabling them to form an understanding of their literary heritage and to develop a love of literature through time.
- Encourages students to explore the underpinning context/ideas/themes and intentions of writers, including the ability to evaluate writers' opinions and perspectives from a variety of non-fiction texts.
- Will explicitly give our students access to a wealth of rich vocabulary and will support them in mastering compositional skills.
- Uses research and educational theory to ensure that our students are reaching their full potential and that our staff are reflecting and developing the quality of their practice