



NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL
COURAGE COMMITMENT COMPASSION

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Dear Parents and Carers

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of our planned curriculum and to highlight ways in which pupils can be further supported with their independent learning and homework. This year, we are also asking that from January all Key Stage 3 pupils carry a pocket dictionary and thesaurus as part of their equipment. We recommend the following copies:

[Oxford Mini Dictionary and Thesaurus](#)

[Collins Mini Dictionary and Thesaurus](#)

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you would like us to provide them with a copy, please contact me.

Curriculum Topics:

Across the year, your child will study a range of topics. These topics will focus on developing their skills in reading, writing and spoken language.

Unit	Year 7	Unit	Year 8	Unit	Year 9
TERMS 1 & 2 TRANSITION	SHORT STORIES OF DIFFERENT GENRES Including <i>Lamb to the Slaughter</i> by Roald Dahl and other short stories.	TERMS 1 & 2 IDENTITY	GOTHIC GENRE Including extracts from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frankenstein Jane Eyre Descriptive writing skills 	TERMS 1 & 2 CONFLICT	CONFLICT LITERATURE POETRY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dulce et Decorum est</i>, Wilfred Owen <i>Falling Leaves</i>, Margaret Postgate Cole <i>The Not Dead</i>, Simon Armitage <i>Quick-Draw</i>, Carol-Ann Duffy
	MYTHS & LEGENDS Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pandora's Box</i> <i>Hercules</i> <i>King Arthur (The Sword in the Stone)</i> <i>The Ramayana (The story of Rama and Sita)</i> <i>Aboriginal Dreamtime Story – The Rainbow Serpent</i> 		SHAKESPEARE UNIT 'THE TEMPEST'		DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE EXTRACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including <i>The Hunger Games</i> and 1984
TERM 3 & 4 EXTENDED READING	NOVEL: THE OTHER SIDE OF TRUTH By Beverley Naidoo	TERM 3 & 4 EXTENDED READING: FRIENDSHIP	AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ROMANTIC PERIOD Including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Daffodils</i> by William Wordsworth 	TERM 3 & 4 LOVE	LOVE LITERATURE PROSE EXTRACTS Including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> <i>Meet Me in Mumbai</i>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Westminster Bridge</i> by William Wordsworth 		LOVE/RELATIONSHIP-INSPIRED NARRATIVE WRITING
			SPEECHES Including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greta T David Attenborough Barack Obama 		'ROMEO AND JULIET'
TERM 5 & 6 CLASSICAL WRITING	VICTORIANS: YEARS: 1832-1900 'OLIVER TWIST' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including Chapter 2 (Extract 1), Chapter 10 (Extract 3) and Chapter 13 (Extract 4) INTRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE SONNETS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sonnet 18 and 16 (Love) Sonnet 130 as a contrast 	TERM 5 & 6 NATURE	THE NOVEL <i>A Monster Calls</i> (Connor and Lily; isolation at school; Connor and the monster) OR <i>The Goldfish Boy</i> - LA (Matthew and Melody/Jake; isolation at school; relationships with neighbours)	TERM 5 & 6 POWER & PROTEST	NOVEL: NOUGHTS AND CROSSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including context lesson and key plot-point lessons as per scheme of work PROTEST SPEECHES SPOKEN LANGUAGE PRESENTATIONS (3 weeks including time for presentations) Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emmeline Pankhurst Nelson Mandela Sojourner Truth

Year 9 pupils will also complete a formal Year 9 exam in the Summer Term during their English lessons. This is a reading assessment using an unseen extract.

Homework and Independent Learning:

The class teacher will issue this each week in line with their homework timetable. Pupils are to check their planners and/or Teams for their tasks and deadlines. This will be directed by their teacher. If your child would like to engage in further reading or independent learning, they could consider:

- The 'Independent Learning' booklet made available on their English Teams page
- Reading literature related to the topics they are studying in class

Independent Reading:

Reading allows all of us to build our vocabulary, improve our understanding and strengthen our lateral thinking skills (which is important for all subjects!) [Recommended Reading Lists](#) can be found in the Library section of the school website. As a school, we encourage pupils to engage with a wide range of literature and to experience and enjoy the wonders of reading. It is a pleasure to see how many members of the student body have a passion for reading.

We recommend that all pupils:

- Read for at least 30-60 minutes per week
- Listen to audiobooks
- For Year 9 pupils particularly, we also recommend that they engage with reading newspapers and online broadsheet articles

Reading content for a Year 7 pupil can be vastly different to that of our Year 11 pupils. There are so many texts available to pupils and with the popularity of books being reviewed on social media (including TikTok and Instagram) your child is able to access a wealth of information on different books. We want to continue nurturing and creating more independent readers in our school but we do ask that, when buying books, you check whether they are age-appropriate.

It is a pleasure to see how many members of the student body have a passion for reading. However, not all books are appropriate for their age group even if an older sibling has read it recently. In particular we are seeing a huge uptake in the reading of novels by authors such as Chloe Walsh, Colleen Hoover and the novel *Icebreaker* by Hannah Grace. Many novels, such as these, are widely published and often seen being advertised on TikTok. However, they are not always appropriate for KS3 pupils.


With this in mind we encourage parents to take an interest in what your child may be reading and to look online at the content if you are unsure or ask in your local library.

Websites which may be useful are:

[Goodreads | Meet your next favorite book](#)

[Bookfinder: find children's books for every age | BookTrust](#)

Yours sincerely



Keira Paupiah
Head of Key Stage 3 English

