North Herts
Education Support Centre

Course Title
KS3 English
Overview
At the NHESC, every effort is made to ensure that students are provided with an English curriculum that is comparable to that which is experienced by their peers in mainstream schools. The development of good communication skills, both verbally and in writing is essential to student's success, in their education and in their future careers. Our students study a variety of different texts suited to their interests, engage in lessons that make use of diverse teaching approaches and learn how to express themselves in an appropriate way. Students are provided with regular and detailed feedback so that they can make progress and be prepared to sit their qualifications when they reach Key Stage 4. The support that we offer can greatly improve levels of attainment for the students in our care.
Outline of the Course
At NHESC, our Key Stage 3 English curriculum is designed to help students develop strong reading, writing, speaking and listening skills while fostering a love of language and learning. We provide an engaging and inclusive curriculum that reflects the learning experiences of students in mainstream schools, supporting them to achieve success both in education and beyond. Our curriculum is built around three core values: • **Culture** – Students explore a wide range of texts, perspectives and experiences, developing cultural awareness and intellectual curiosity. • **Creativity** – Lessons encourage imaginative thinking and creative responses, helping students explore language and meaning in a variety of ways. • **Confidence** – Students develop the skills and self-assurance to communicate effectively, express their ideas clearly, and understand how language shapes the world around them. **Learning in English:** Students study a variety of challenging and engaging texts through units centred on thought-provoking **'big questions'**, reflecting the wider world and everyday life. Lessons provide regular opportunities to read, write, discuss and reflect, while developing the key skills needed for GCSE success. At KS3, we focus on building strong foundations for Key Stage 4. Students revisit and deepen essential English skills across different topics and texts, helping them grow as confident readers, writers and communicators.

SMSC, Careers and Enrichment

Through a diverse range of texts and topics, students explore important social issues, cultures and perspectives. This supports their personal development, broadens their understanding of the wider world and helps them develop skills that are valuable for future education, employment and life.

Assessment details

Students complete both formative and summative assessments throughout each unit of work. Assessment criteria are closely aligned with GCSE expectations, enabling students to understand their progress and prepare for future qualifications. Regular feedback helps students identify strengths, recognise areas for development and celebrate their achievements over time.

Staff Roles

Teachers – Mrs Beavis, and Miss Charalambou

Equipment/Health and Safety

Class texts and all other necessary equipment is provided by the centre. Including access to ICT resources as necessary. Basic classroom health and safety expectations apply.

Curriculum Plan

This table sets out the intended curriculum plan for KS3 English. The plan for each half term is reviewed in advance based on progress, considering the contrasting needs of individuals within each cohort and the impact of external factors on their learning.

Key Stage 3

Autumn 1 Stone Cold: *The Big Question: Can a person be wholly good or wholly evil?* Final assessment-Textual analysis: How has the text been presented to interest the reader? Reading (A01, A02, AO3)	**Autumn 2** Gothic Fiction: *The Big Question: Why are people so fascinated by the supernatural?* Final assessment- Plan and write your own Gothic narrative. Writing (AO5, AO6).
Spring 1 Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet. *The Big Question: Is Shakespeare still relevant?*	**Spring 2** Poetry: Modern spoken word. *The Big Question: How does poetry and rap explore contemporary issues and promote free thinking?*

Final assessment- How does the relationship between Juliet and Capulet change throughout the play? Reading (A01, A02, A03)	Final assessment- Speaking and listening assessment.
<u>Summer 1</u> Travel and Tourism: Persuasive writing. *The Big Question: How do we use manipulation in texts?* Final assessment- Writing (AO5, AO6)	**<u>Summer 2</u>** Narrative writing/Modern play- Noughts and Crosses play. The Big Question: What happens when power is challenged? Final assessment-AO1-4.