

ENGLISH

CURRICULUM INTENT

English encourages students to develop their voice and express themselves emotionally and creatively. Effective communication enables young people to form strong relationships, compete in a global market and approach social situations with confidence and self-assurance. In an increasingly polarised world, it is essential that students are able to foster empathy and understand a range of perspectives to increase the breadth of their cultural awareness. Across all subjects the ability to comprehend, synthesise and engage with significant amounts of information is the key to success; it is in English lessons that Swanlea students will develop the skills to ensure that they can access information at the highest levels both in education and in the wider world.

Reading enables young people to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. At Swanlea School students receive a solid grounding in seminal literature from different historical eras. An appreciation and celebration of canonical literature is nurtured from a young age; Dickens and Shakespeare are introduced in year seven. Students also engage with the works of writers from a diverse range of backgrounds. Hearing the stories of people who are reflective of our modern society will encourage the development of students' intellectual, spiritual, social, emotional and cultural understanding. Running alongside this exploration of literature is a focus on supporting students to develop a firm grasp on fundamental writing skills such as syntax, grammar, lexical choice and rhetoric. Knowing how to confidently craft different forms of writing from a well-structured argument to creative storytelling empowers students to address different audiences for different purposes.

At Swanlea School, students are equipped with the tools to communicate their ideas and emotions and to understand the world around them; this strong foundation in English ultimately serves as a key to unlock their wider journey through education and beyond.