

4th December, 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We believe it's extremely important to keep you updated and informed regarding our curriculum offer. Therefore, each subject has created an overview document that can be found by clicking this link: [Arrow Vale School | Curriculum overviews \(arrowvaleacademy.co.uk\)](https://www.arrowvaleacademy.co.uk/curriculum-overviews)

Each subject overview document outlines the unit of work students will be studying and when. It provides detail on the knowledge we want students to acquire and the skills we want them to develop during that unit. It also includes the ways in which teachers will assess students' understanding. For example:

YEAR 9			
Term/Length of Unit	Outline	Knowledge and Skills	End points and associated key assessments
Autumn 1&2 – 1 Term	Students start Year 9 by completing an atmospheric writing scheme that bridges the transition between Year 8 and Year 9. This then leads into a scheme based around 'Tales of the Unexpected' where students explore tales with an unexpected twist.	Students will be able to craft language to generate a piece of 'disconcerting' writing. Students are also given the opportunity to practise their spelling, punctuation, and grammar usage. Students will be able to analyse the effects of language choices and poetic methods throughout a range of texts to explore poets' meanings and intentions. Students will build knowledge of contextual factors to help identify how writers can be influenced or inspired to write. Students will build comparative skills by using similarities and differences to create analytical comparisons between two or more texts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Creative writing assessment</u>. To create a disconcerting atmosphere. • <u>Language analysis</u> – 'How does Browning use language to...' in the Laboratory. • <u>Comparison</u>: 'Compare how emotions are presented in 'The Laboratory' and one other poem of your choice.'
Spring 1 – 6 weeks	Shakespeare Study: Twelfth Night	Students will build knowledge of contextual factors to help identify how Shakespeare was influenced or inspired to write. Students will develop and identify key components of a narrative and identify key genre conventions for comedic plays. Students will develop and understand the meaning of 'stagecraft' (the way a production is presented on a stage) and consider how this might have been used in Jacobean drama productions. Students will be able to analyse the effects of purposeful choices made by Shakespeare to explore his meanings and intentions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Midpoint knowledge quiz</u> (peer/self-assessed) and an <u>analytical paragraph</u> on a key character/theme within the play.

In this example, you can see that our year 9 students in English began the year developing their creative writing skills and are currently exploring tales with an unexpected twist. After Christmas, they will be moving on to a Shakespeare Study exploring Twelfth Night.

Teachers are currently focusing on providing students with opportunities to discuss their learning within lessons; we know that developing students' oracy skills is incredibly important in ensuring our students go on to succeed in life beyond school. We would really value your support with this and hope that by sharing this curriculum information, you will feel empowered to engage in conversations with your child regarding their learning at home.

Continued....

As always, if you do wish to find out ways to support your child further in their studies, please do not hesitate to contact our curriculum leads who will be more than happy to help you with this. Contact details can be found on our website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michaela Yeomans'. The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name 'Michaela' and last name 'Yeomans' clearly distinguishable.

Michaela Yeomans
Assistant Principal – Curriculum and Pedagogy