

Curriculum Overview 2026-27

The Maplewell English curriculum aims to provide:

- an ambitious curriculum for all pupils, regardless of pathway
- a coherently planned 'spiral curriculum' which offers students opportunities to revisit key concepts and ideas
- a curriculum that is broad and balanced for all pupils

Pathway A: Stretch and Challenge	Working towards GCSE Language and Literature at the end of KS4
Pathway B: Step up to Independence	Working towards Entry Level Certificate: Step Up To English at the end of KS4, alongside GCSE Language, where appropriate for individuals
Pathway C: Learning for Life	Working towards Entry Level Certificate: Step Up To English at the end of KS4

Year Group	Pathway	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 7: Literature Through the Ages							
7	A	Ancient Origins: Greek Mythology introduction unit. Weekly knowledge assessment (/10)	Oral Traditions: Beowulf King Arthur	An Introduction to Shakespeare: Historical context and the significance of his writing, through extracts	An Introduction to Poetry	Reporting the news: War poetry & letters from the trenches	Private Peaceful Local news
7	B						
What will students learn?		An Introduction to key skills in English, each week has a different focus to provide an extended baseline assessment to ensure students are on the right pathway for English. 	An understanding of how storytelling originated and the influence that other cultures have had on our oral traditions. 	An overview of some of Shakespeare's most famous works. 	An exploration of genre and genre conventions, using some famous children's poetry 	Introduction to journalism and reporting the news, focusing on how technology has changed news reporting in the 21st Century. 	This unit will explore the skills introduced in Autumn 1 as a way of checking progress and understanding. Pathways adjusted ready for year 8. 
Year 8: Identity and Change							
8	A	Shakespeare: The Tempest	The World Around us: Nature Poetry	Identity and injustice: Boy 87 Reading assessment	Identity and injustice: Boy 87 Narrative writing	Advertising	Celebrity and the Modern Media: Language Change
What will students learn?		An enhanced understanding of how to approach Shakespeare's work, alongside an appreciation for the story. 	A study of poetry through the ages, working towards creating their own poetry inspired by nature. 	Considering the perspectives of people who are treated differently because of race, class and religion. 	Considering the perspectives of people who are treated differently because of race, class and religion. Exploration of non-fiction text types. 	A study of a range of media texts, with a specific focus on persuasive techniques as well as the impact of audience, purpose and text type. . 	Students will explore how the media has changed the way that we communicate.

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8	B	Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream	The World Around us: Nature Poetry	Identity and injustice The Boy at The Back of The Class	Identity and injustice The Boy at The Back of The Class	Advertising Advertising	Celebrity and the Modern Media: Language Change
8	C						
What will students learn?		An enhanced understanding of how to approach Shakespeare's work, alongside an appreciation for the story. 	A study of poetry through the ages, working towards creating their own poetry inspired by nature. 	Considering the perspectives of people who are treated differently because of race, class and religion. 	Considering the perspectives of people who are treated differently because of race, class and religion. Exploration of non-fiction text types. 	A study of a range of media texts, with a specific focus on persuasive techniques as well as the impact of audience, purpose and text type. . 	Students will explore how the media has changed the way that we communicate.
Year 9: Big Issues in Our World							
9	A	Shakespeare: Othello	Telling Tales: Introduction to 19th and 20th Century Literature Poetry from the AQA Anthology	The Art of Rhetoric: 21st Century political speeches Amanda Gorman poetry	Justice and Social Responsibility To Kill a Mockingbird The Hate U Give (extracts)	Victorian Gothic: Frankenstein The Tell Tale Heart Jekyll and Hyde The Hound of The Baskervilles	Reporting the news Fake news project (The Guardian) Spoken Language
What will students learn?		An enhanced understanding of how to approach Shakespeare's work, alongside an appreciation for the story. Focus on fluency skills.  	Development of skills needed to approach unseen extracts and poetry, initially focusing on reading for meaning, moving towards the effect of language choices and devices. 	Exploration of a range of political speeches and their social and political impact. Focus on rhetoric and devices.  	Considering the perspectives of people who are treated differently because of race, class and religion. Exploration of non-fiction text types. 	An introduction to the gothic genre, to develop understanding of conventions and social context.  	Skills needed to be effective media consumers. A focus on regulation and control of the media industry as well as enhanced awareness of 'fake news' and what constitutes misinformation.
9	B	Shakespeare: Othello Retold	Telling Tales: Introduction to 19th and 20th Century Literature Poetry from the AQA Anthology	Victorian Gothic: Frankenstein The Tell Tale Heart Jekyll and Hyde The Hound of The Baskervilles	Advertising: Reporting the news Fake news project (The Guardian) Spoken Language	Silver Component 1: Pets An exciting unit of work which combines exploration of a range of non-fiction texts, considering functional reading and writing tasks.	Silver Component 1: Charities This unit will encourage students to get involved in their school community. We will explore texts from local and national charities and students will prepare their own fundraising event and materials.
9	C						
What will students learn?		An enhanced understanding of how to approach Shakespeare's work, alongside an appreciation for the story. Focus on fluency skills.  	Development of skills needed to approach unseen extracts and poetry, initially focusing on reading for meaning, moving towards the effect of language choices and devices.  	An introduction to the gothic genre, to develop understanding of conventions and social context.  	Skills needed to be effective media consumers. A focus on regulation and control of the media industry as well as enhanced awareness of 'fake news' and what constitutes	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.   	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.   

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					misinformation.		
							
Alternative pathways KS3							
KS3	Life Ready	Baseline skills check Revolting Rhymes: Reading Skills	Oracy Focus: Beowulf	Introduction to Shakespeare The Tempest	Instructional Texts: Writing Skills	Novel Study: The Boy in The Tower	Creative writing: synoptic unit
What will students learn?	An Introduction to key skills in English, each week has a different focus to provide an extended baseline assessment to ensure students are on the right pathway for English.   	An understanding of how storytelling originated and the influence that other cultures have had on our oral traditions. 	An overview of some of Shakespeare's most famous works followed by a close read of The Tempest 	This unit encourages students to practice transactional writing skills. 	An exploration of genre and genre conventions, using a modern fiction text.  	This unit will explore the skills introduced in Autumn 1 as a way of checking progress and understanding. Pathways adjusted ready for year 8.  	
Year 10 & 11 GCSE English Language and Literature *Order of teaching and text type is subject to change based on needs of the group, please contact English teacher for more information.							
10	A	Explorations in creative reading and writing section A: reading fiction Spoken Language Presentations	Explorations in creative reading and writing section B: creative writing Poetry section 1	Writer's viewpoints and perspectives section A: reading non-fiction	Introduction to poetry	Writer's viewpoints and perspectives section B: writing non-fiction Poetry Part 2	Literature Paper 2 Post-1914 Drama: An Inspector Calls
What will students learn?	How to approach a range of different fiction extracts, a clear focus on reading for meaning and understanding the writer's craft. Spoken language presentations on a topic of their choosing.  	To apply skills learnt in Autumn 1 to their own writing. Consider effective structure, characterisation, description and language devices. 	How to approach a range of different non-fiction extracts, a clear focus on reading for meaning and understanding the writer's craft. 	Build on skills developed in KS3 to explore reading for meaning, poetic devices and structure. 	To apply skills learnt in Spring 1 to their own writing. Consider effective structure, characterisation, description and language devices. 	Explore the chosen text in detail, comprising a full 'cold' reading and exploration of social and historical context. Specific focus on characterisation and plot. 	
11	A	  Literature Shakespeare	Literature 19th Century Novel A Christmas Carol/ Jekyll and Hyde/Frankenstein Mocks: Language Paper 2 and	A Christmas Carol Unseen Poetry Poetry Part 3	Literature Revision To be personalised by class teachers to suit the needs of the group	Language Revision To be personalised by class teachers to suit the needs of the group	Revision Exams Transition

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			Literature paper 1				
What will students learn?		Explore the chosen text in detail, comprising a full 'cold' reading and exploration of social and historical context. Specific focus on characterisation and plot  	Explore the chosen text in detail, comprising a full 'cold' reading and exploration of social and historical context. Specific focus on characterisation and plot.  	How to approach a range of different poems, a clear focus on reading for meaning and understanding the writer's craft.  	Knowledge and skills audit completed at the start of this half term to highlight areas of need for revision. Literature revision tailored to group.  	Knowledge and skills audit completed at the start of this half term to highlight areas of need for revision. Language revision tailored to group.  	Final knowledge and skills audit completed. Language and Literature revision tailored to group.  
Year 10 & 11 ELC Step Up To English Silver and Gold							
10	B	Silver Component 1: Pets and Charities A range of non-fiction texts will be explored	Silver Component 2: Crime Lamb to the Slaughter An Inspector Calls The Landlady	Language Skills & Reading Project Blood Brothers	Gold Component 1: Holidays Or Silver Component 1: Film	Gold Component 1: Hobbies Or Silver Component 1: Film	GCSE Spoken Language Presentations
What will students learn?		Students will explore a range of fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development   	Students will explore a range of fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development  	Students will develop cultural capital through studying a modern drama, and consider the impact of social and political context on writing. This could be enhanced through modern fiction.   	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.   	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.   	Spoken language presentations on a topic of their choosing.
11	B/C	Gold Component 2: Science Fiction Or Silver Component 1: Hobbies	Language Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing Or Silver Component 1: Film	Language Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing Or Silver Component 2: Ghosts An Inspector Calls	Language paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives section Or Silver Component 2: Ghosts	Language paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives section Language Skills & Reading Project Blood Brothers	Revision Transition
What will students learn?		Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual	Students will explore a range of fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. In addition, they will study the play, 'An Inspector Calls'	Students will explore a range of fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills develo  	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development In addition, students will study Blood Brothers, a modern play, which	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.

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		presentations.   	  	  		focuses on a range of issues surrounding adolescence, poverty, and growing up   	  
Alternative Pathways KS4							
EO		Reading Project Silver Component 1: Hobbies	Silver Component 1: Film	An Inspector Calls: Silver Component 2: Ghosts	Silver Component 2: Ghosts	Language Skills & Reading Project	Blood Brothers
What will students learn?		Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.   	Students will explore a range of fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.   	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. In addition, they will study the play, 'An Inspector Calls'   	Students will explore a range of fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development.  	Students will explore a range of fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development.  	Students will study Blood Brothers, a modern play, which focuses on a range of issues surrounding adolescence, poverty and growing up.   
KS4	LfL	SUTE language skills	Silver Component 1: Pets	Silver Component 1: TBC	Component 2: Crime Lamb to the Slaughter/ The Landlady	Component 2: Crime An Inspector Calls/ Sherlock Holmes	Language Skills & Reading Project Blood Brothers
What will students learn?		An Introduction to key skills in English at KS4, each week has a different focus to provide an extended baseline assessment which will prepare them for KS4 study   	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.   	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.   	Students will explore a range of fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.  	Students will explore a range of non-fiction texts, focusing on the writer's craft and skills development. Spoken language skills developed through group and individual presentations.  	Students will develop cultural capital through studying a modern drama, and consider the impact of social and political context on writing. This could be enhanced through modern fiction.  
Post 16 Pathways							
Post 16	Progression	Explorations in creative reading and writing section A: reading fiction	Explorations in creative reading and writing section B: creative writing	Writer's viewpoints and perspectives section A: reading non-fiction	Spoken Language Paper 1 Revision	Writer's viewpoints and perspectives section B: writing non-fiction	Revision Transition

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What will students learn?		How to approach a range of different fiction extracts, a clear focus on reading for meaning and understanding the writer's craft.  	To apply skills learnt in Autumn 1 to their own writing. Consider effective structure, characterisation, description and language devices.  	How to approach a range of different non-fiction extracts, a clear focus on reading for meaning and understanding the writer's craft.  	Knowledge and skills audit completed at the start of this half term to highlight areas of need for revision. Spoken language presentations on a topic of their choosing.   	To apply skills learnt in Spring 1 to their own writing. Consider effective structure, characterisation, description and language devices.  	Revision of all aspects of the course in preparation for exams in May & June. College transition.
Post 16	Life Pathway	Module 1 Developing Communication skills Task 2:A	Module 1 Developing Communication skills Task 3:A	Module 1 Developing Communication skills Task 4:A	Module 1 Developing Communication skills Task 7:A	Module 1 Developing Communication skills Task 3:B	Module 4 Reading for Pleasure
What will students learn?		Students will develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a range of challenges. This module focuses on communication skills.   	Students will develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a range of challenges. This module focuses on communication skills.   	Students will develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a range of challenges. This module focuses on communication skills.   	Students will develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a range of challenges. This module focuses on communication skills.   	Students will develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a range of challenges. This module focuses on communication skills.   	Students will develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a range of challenges. This module focuses on reading for pleasure.   