

# English at Weston Secondary School

## **What is English at Weston?**

English is a core subject at Weston, this means throughout your journey at Weston you will continue to build skills in both reading and writing to prepare yourself for your GCSE's. We endeavour to engage our students in all aspects of English and will explore a variety of texts to both support and challenge you along the way. We will pick up on your creative writing skills and introduce you to exciting new ways to engage readers with structure and language. As well as this, we delve in to non-fiction writing, using debate to explore your own viewpoints on challenging topics.

At Weston, within English, we have built a culture that we have coined, "voices of a generation". We believe you are the voices of your generation, but believe that we also must look at the voices of the past, what have influenced them to write and what can we learn from them?

## **What have Year 7 been looking at this Autumn term?**

Year 7 have begun this year exploring why writers write and ends the term writing their very own opening to a novel. These were then gathered and published in our very first Weston Secondary published book. Each term then continues to progress on the journey below:

- A novel study; students will explore the book *Boy 87*, whilst exploring and linking contextual knowledge of refugees and displacement to the text.
- Heroes and Villains; whereby students are encouraged to explore archetypal characters, exploring the historical evolution of both heroes and villains and compare their presentation in texts.
- Manga; students will then look at the evolution and influences of Manga within popular culture, as well as look at how the structure of Manga engages its readers.
- Shakespeare; we will then move forward in recalling and building students skills of contextual links, character archetypes and the journey of plots within one of the most infamous writers. This term we delve in to a student's drama skills as well as encouraging a student's creative capabilities in becoming their very own Shakespearean writer.
- Poetry; students will then conclude the term exploring poetry from literary heritage, war and other cultures.

## **What do we offer outside the standard English curriculum?**

At Weston, within English, we strive to offer outlets to support and challenge you. We host a range of Creative Writing competitions, whereby our winning entries have been published and taken back to their primary school to read their entrees. We have a fantastic library that was opened by Ali Sparkes in 2023; it is a beautiful space for you and your friends to enjoy quietly reading, playing board games or becoming one of our young librarians. To build and support you further, we also use the reading program Lexia, a personalised computer program that generates tasks to support your outside of the classroom. As well as this, we believe in rewarding those hard-working students and have hosted a variety of reward events every half term to encourage your engagement and say thank you for your hard work.