

For further information about what is taught in English, please click here to visit the subject curriculum maps on our website.

English + CURRICULUM MAP



Overview	<p>Our English Plus curriculum exists to support students in Key Stage 3 for whom reading poses a significant challenge, and whose reading age is significantly below chronological age. Our intention is that students will move into English Plus groups when they need to and will return to mainstream English lessons when they have made sufficient progress. We test and review students' reading ages each year and frequently review our class lists to ensure that the right students are receiving these impactful, time-limited interventions. English Plus runs in parallel to the literacy element of the English curriculum and is, as its name suggests, additional to, not a replacement for, the English curriculum map. Consequently, the curriculum map looks different from our other subject curriculum maps.</p>
Aspiration	<p>The goal of English Plus lessons is to close the gap between students with low reading ages and those of their peers. We aim to create:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• successful decoders;• confident comprehenders;• fluent writers;• resilient and independent learners. <p>Lessons are structured such that students are challenged to work both independently and alongside their teacher, with high expectations for perseverance and strategies modelled to support with the process of decoding and comprehending. Students are expected to apply their English Plus toolkit in their mainstream English lessons and links are made, where appropriate, between the skills studied in English Plus and the curriculum content in English lessons. Each student has personalised and individualised attention every lesson and reads out loud to their teacher. Each students also records unfamiliar and tricky words in their own personal vocabulary booklet, which they take with them to English lessons.</p>
Opportunity	<p>Within the classroom:</p> <p>An important part of the English Plus curriculum is the opportunity to experience a range of different kinds of texts and engage with them in varied and interesting ways. Sometimes, this might take the form of short reading activities with independent work completed, using The Reading Laboratory Programme; at other times, it might involve a whole-class response to text using the Catapult programme; it may also involve independent and supported work on the building blocks of language using the Lexia programme.</p> <p>Beyond the classroom:</p> <p>Beyond the curriculum, students are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• read regularly and independently• acquire and rehearse new vocabulary using the Bedrock Learning platform• practise their literacy skills using Lexia at home.
Integrity	<p>Knowledge:</p> <p>It is our firm belief at Fitzharrys that reading is the key to unlocking the whole curriculum. Our intention with English Plus is to create learners who have the reading knowledge required to successfully access the learning in their lessons around the school.</p> <p>Skills:</p> <p>Alongside their literacy development, students also cultivate the important skills of independent working, and the resilience, patience, and perseverance that is encompassed in being a successful learner in the school community. The flexibility of the programme allows staff to work to meet students' needs and equips students to take these skills into their other lessons and beyond.</p>

ENGLISH + CURRICULUM MAP



Lexia

A proven programme for raising student reading comprehension and writing accuracy. Students work on a PC or laptop using brilliantly designed software; initially they undertake a test which then places them where they need to be in the programme and advises the number of minutes per week they need to complete to make progress. The teacher receives reports each week of their successes and also areas where they experienced more challenge and can then support on a one-to-one basis with additional material to really secure their learning. 60 minutes of homework is required every week to sustain progress.

The Reading Laboratory

An intensive reading recovery programme that encourages students to read extracts from Fiction and non-fiction texts and answer questions on meaning, language and grammar. Students work independently as they are all on different levels but read out loud to their teacher one to one every lesson and demonstrate their understanding. They can progress quickly through the different coloured stages of the programme and become really confident readers.

Catapult

A superb resource to support and develop writing skills for students who lack skills and confidence. The programme focuses on planning and structuring both simple and longer and more complex responses in preparation for the challenges of the curriculum further up the school. The lessons contain excellent models and examples of 'what a good one looks like' and students really enjoy experiencing their writing skills develop and mature and especially developing greater sentence variety and ways of expressing their ideas.

Phonics

For students yet to really secure reading fluency we offer an intensive programme from Read, Write Inc of Daily Phonics in a small group of no more than 4. The daily practice of decoding sounds into words has produced some great results for our students and a real increase in confidence because they are taught by a specialist in a small nurture group. Students progress from this to the Catapult programme or Reading Laboratory where they are taught in a larger group but the learning is at their pace and designed to lead them to reading with fluency and understanding. This is always an enthusiastic group supported by Toby, the School Dog and building on some of the principles of learning to read that they would have encountered in Primary School.