Team English · Pupil and Parent Hub

St Edward's College · 2026–27 · Critical thinkers · Accomplished writers · Thoughtful readers · Lifelong learners

This page is your home for everything English at St Edward's. Whether you want to know what you're studying this term, what to do if you miss a lesson, or how to go further and deeper with your reading — it's all here.

If I am absent from school...

Missing a lesson doesn't mean missing the learning. Here's what to do:

1	**Find your lesson on Pupil Hub** All lessons are uploaded to Pupil Hub as soon as they are taught. Find your year group, find the unit you are studying, and open the lesson you missed. Work through it at your own pace.
2	**Complete the lesson tasks** Each lesson contains a Do Now, a main task and a GEM Check. Complete all three as you would in class. If you are unsure about anything, note it down and ask your teacher when you return.
3	**Complete the follow-up quiz** After each lesson there is a short comprehension quiz on Educake to check your understanding. Log in, find your class and complete the quiz. If you cannot access Educake, your teacher will give you the quiz in class when you return.
4	**Tell your teacher** Let your English teacher know you have caught up. They will check your work and make sure you haven't missed anything important before the next lesson.

For parents and carers: if your child is absent for more than two consecutive lessons, please contact the English department directly so we can make sure they are supported on their return. All resources are available on Pupil Hub at any time.

Homework Expectations

English homework is designed to build vocabulary, strengthen retrieval and deepen understanding — not to add unnecessary pressure. Here is what to expect at each key stage.

Key Stage	Platform and Task	Expectations
KS3 Years 7, 8 and 9	**Bedrock Vocabulary** Bedrock is an online vocabulary and reading programme that builds your tier-two vocabulary systematically. Log in at bedrocklearning.org using your school credentials.	Complete your weekly Bedrock lessons when set by your teacher. Your progress is monitored termly. Bedrock works best when completed little and often — twenty minutes twice a week is more effective than an hour once a week.
KS4 Years 10 and 11	**Educake and Seneca Learning** Educake: short retrieval quizzes on literature and language content set by your teacher. Log in at educake.co.uk using your school credentials. Seneca: free online revision platform with structured courses for Eduqas GCSE English Language and English Literature. Log in at senecalearning.com.	Complete Educake quizzes when set. For Seneca, use it independently for revision — particularly useful for consolidating literature texts and language skills between lessons. Your teacher will advise on which courses to prioritise.

KS4 Revision — Recommended YouTube Channels

The following YouTube channels are recommended by the department for GCSE English revision. They are clear, reliable and free. Use them alongside your lessons, your knowledge organisers and your Educake quizzes — not instead of them.

Channel	Best for	How to use it
Mr Bruff youtube.com/@mrbruff	GCSE English Language and Literature — one of the most trusted revision channels for Eduqas and AQA. Strong on essay technique and exam strategy.	Search for your specific text or paper. Watch his walk-through videos before timed practice to remind yourself of key points, then practise independently.
Mr Salles Teaches English youtube.com/@MrSallesTeachesEnglish	Exceptionally strong on exam technique and mark scheme analysis — particularly for English Language. His videos on how examiners mark are essential viewing.	Watch his mark scheme analysis videos before your mock examinations. His breakdowns of what separates a grade 6 from a grade 8 response are the most useful on YouTube.
Stacey Reay (Stacey Rae English) youtube.com/@StaceyReayEnglish	Clear, pupil-friendly explanations of literature texts and language skills. Particularly good for A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls and Macbeth.	Use her text-specific videos when revising for literature assessments. Her character and theme summaries are a good way to check your knowledge before writing practice essays.
Massolit massolit.io (school login required)	University-level video lectures on GCSE and A Level set texts — delivered by academics. A step above YouTube revision channels. Available free through your school login.	Use Massolit for deeper understanding of your literature texts — particularly useful for developing the conceptual thinking that Grade 8 and 9 responses require. Ask your teacher for your school login.
GCSE English with Ms Warren Search on YouTube	Friendly, accessible and well-structured — good for pupils who want a clear, calm explanation of literature and language skills without jargon.	Good starting point if you are feeling unsure about a topic. Use alongside Mr Bruff and Mr Salles for a fuller picture.

A note on using YouTube for revision: watching a video is not the same as revising. The best approach is: watch → pause → make a note → close the video → write down what you remember. Active retrieval is always more effective than passive watching.

What We Are Studying — Curriculum Overview

At St Edward's, our English curriculum is built around six threads that develop from Year 7 all the way through to A Level: Shakespeare, Storytelling and Creative Writing, Poetry, Literary Heritage, Identity and Society, and Language and Linguistics. Every unit you study belongs to one or more of these threads — so you are always building on what you already know.

Term	Unit	What you will know and be able to do by the end
Year 7 Building the foundations — reading closely, writing analytically, thinking conceptually.		
Advent 1	**Short Stories with a Twist**	Read four short stories across different genres. Analyse how writers create tension, mood and the twist ending. Write an original dystopian story using narrative structure and figurative language.
Advent 2	**Greek Myths**	Explore the origins of Western storytelling through myth, archetype and moral message. Understand how ancient stories continue to shape modern literature and culture.
Lent 1	**The Tempest**	Study Shakespeare's language, stagecraft and themes of power, freedom and forgiveness. Write analytically about character and dramatic method.

Lent 2	**Pig Heart Boy**	Explore identity, prejudice and medical ethics through Malorie Blackman's novel. Develop analytical writing on character and theme.
Lent 3	**Origins of English**	Discover how the English language evolved through invasion, morphology and language families. Decode word roots and understand how language changes over time.
Trinity	**Poetry Through Time · Art of Rhetoric**	Analyse poems across periods and places. Compare poets' methods, voices and messages. Learn the tools of persuasive writing — rhetoric, argument and audience.
Year 8 Developing sophistication — analysing methods, exploring context, comparing viewpoints.		
Advent 1	**The Giver**	Study Lois Lowry's dystopian novel — ideas of freedom, conformity and the cost of a perfect society. Develop character analysis and thematic writing.
Advent 2	**The Canterbury Tales**	Read Chaucer's medieval masterpiece. Explore satire, morality and social class. Begin to engage with Middle English and understand how language changes over centuries.
Lent 1	**Hamlet**	Study Shakespeare's great tragedy — revenge, moral conflict and the cost of inaction. Develop analytical writing on dramatic method and character.
Lent 2	**Noughts and Crosses**	Explore prejudice, justice and systemic injustice through Malorie Blackman's novel. Develop persuasive viewpoint writing.
Lent 3	**Accent and Dialect**	Explore how accent and dialect carry identity, culture and status. Understand the social and political dimensions of how we speak.
Trinity	**Poetry — Identity, Heritage and Freedom**	Analyse poems on dual heritage, freedom and discrimination. Compare poets' methods and viewpoints across time.
Year 9 Building independence — developing interpretation, engaging with GCSE-style texts, constructing conceptual arguments.		
Advent 1	**Jekyll and Hyde**	Study Stevenson's gothic masterpiece — duality, the divided self and Victorian respectability. Develop conceptual analytical writing on character and context.
Advent 2	**Stories from Around the World**	Explore global folklore, oral traditions and cultural archetypes. Compare storytelling traditions across different cultures and periods.
Lent 1	**The Merchant of Venice**	Study Shakespeare's tragicomedy — prejudice, the mercy-justice debate and moral complexity. Develop sustained analytical writing.
Lent 2	**Dr Faustus · Writing in the Real World**	Explore Marlowe's tragedy of ambition and damnation. Develop real-world transactional writing for different audiences and purposes.
Trinity	**Poems of Power, Love and Nature**	Study poetry exploring power, love, conflict and the natural world. Build secure comparative analysis in preparation for GCSE.

Year 10 GCSE — constructing conceptual responses, analysing and evaluating independently.		
Advent	**A Christmas Carol · Narrative Writing**	Study Dickens' novella — social responsibility, redemption and Victorian context. Develop the craft of creative narrative prose for GCSE Language Paper 1.
Lent	**Eduqas Anthology Poetry · Language Paper 1**	Study the set poetry anthology and develop comparison technique. Analyse 20th-century fiction and develop creative writing for exam conditions.
Trinity	**An Inspector Calls · End of Year Papers**	Study Priestley's morality play — social responsibility, generational change and dramatic structure. Consolidate across Language and Literature.
Year 11 GCSE Finals — thesis-led responses, independent revision, examination preparation.		
Advent	**Macbeth · Unseen Poetry**	Study Shakespeare's tragedy of ambition, guilt and power. Develop extract analysis and whole-play essay writing. Begin unseen poetry analysis.
Lent	**Rotating Skills · Targeted Revision**	Cycle through narrative writing, transactional writing and unseen poetry. Targeted revision responsive to mock examination outcomes.
Trinity	**Final Preparation**	Responsive revision shaped by mock and PPE outcomes. Timed essays, walking-talking mocks and final examination preparation.

English Scholar Recommendations — Going Further

English Scholars go beyond the classroom — reading widely, thinking deeply and exploring ideas that connect to what they are studying and beyond. The recommendations below have been curated for each unit to help you go further. They include novels, non-fiction, films and online resources. You don't have to read or watch everything — pick what interests you and follow your curiosity.

Year 7 Scholar Recommendations

Short Stories with a Twist

- ✦ **Roald Dahl — Tales of the Unexpected** **[Fiction]** *The master of the dark twist — every story will show you a new technique.*
- ✦ **The Yellow Wallpaper — Charlotte Perkins Gilman** **[Fiction]** *A short story that will unsettle you. Perfect for understanding unreliable narrators.*
- ✦ **TED Talk: "The clues to a great story" — Andrew Stanton** **[Online]** *The writer of Toy Story and WALL-E explains what makes a story work. Search on YouTube.*
- ✦ **Knives Out (2019)** **[Film]** *A modern mystery with a brilliant twist. Watch it to see foreshadowing, dramatic irony and contrast used at the highest level. Certificate 12A.*

Greek Myths

- ✦ **Mythos — Stephen Fry** **[Non-fiction]** *The Greek myths retold with wit and intelligence. Brilliant for understanding the stories and why they still matter.*
- ✦ **Circe — Madeline Miller** **[Fiction]** *A modern retelling of a minor goddess who becomes one of literature's great heroines.*
- ✦ **Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief (2010)** **[Film]** *See the myths brought to life — then compare how faithfully they follow the originals. Certificate PG.*

The Tempest

- ✦ **Shakespeare — A Very Short Introduction — Stanley Wells** **[Non-fiction]** *A brilliant and accessible introduction to how and why Shakespeare wrote.*

✦ **The Tempest — RSC filmed production** [Film] *Watch a professional production and see how directors interpret Shakespeare's stage directions. Available on Digital Theatre.*

✦ **BBC: "Shakespeare's Restless World" — Neil MacGregor** [Online] *Shakespeare explored through objects from his time. Available on BBC Sounds.*

Pig Heart Boy

✦ **Noughts and Crosses — Malorie Blackman** [Fiction] *You'll study this in Year 8 — read it early and you'll arrive ahead. Same author, same fearlessness.*

✦ **Never Let Me Go — Kazuo Ishiguro** [Fiction] *A novel about identity, ethics and what it means to be human. Quietly devastating.*

✦ **TED Talk: "The ethical dilemma of designer babies" — Paul Knoepfler** [Online] *Connects directly to the medical ethics at the heart of Pig Heart Boy. Search on TED.com.*

Poetry Through Time

✦ **Staying Alive — edited by Neil Astley** [Fiction] *One of the great poetry anthologies — poems about being alive, being human, being here. Dip in anywhere.*

✦ **Dead Poets Society (1989)** [Film] *A film about what poetry does to people who really encounter it. Certificate PG.*

✦ **YouTube: "Poetry Unbound" — On Being Project** [Online] *Short, beautiful readings and reflections on single poems. Perfect for developing your ear for language.*

Year 8 Scholar Recommendations

The Giver

✦ **1984 — George Orwell** [Fiction] *The great dystopia. Everything The Giver explores, Orwell explores in more terrifying detail.*

✦ **Gattaca (1997)** [Film] *A film about a genetically engineered future society. Connects The Giver's themes to real scientific questions. Certificate PG.*

✦ **TED Talk: "Beware, fellow plutocrats, the pitchforks are coming" — Nick Hanauer** [Online] *On inequality and power — the ideas behind every dystopia. Search on TED.com.*

The Canterbury Tales

✦ **Canterbury Tales — retold by Geraldine McCaughrean** [Fiction] *A modern retelling that makes Chaucer's stories accessible without losing their wit and darkness.*

✦ **A Knight's Tale (2001)** [Film] *A medieval adventure that captures the spirit and social world of Chaucer. Certificate PG-13 / 12A.*

✦ **BBC: "The Canterbury Tales" — In Our Time, Melvyn Bragg** [Online] *A brilliant exploration of why Chaucer still matters. Available on BBC Sounds.*

Hamlet

✦ **Hamlet — graphic novel adaptation by Classical Comics** [Fiction] *Read the play in a new form — seeing the action often helps the language make sense.*

✦ **Hamlet — RSC 2009 (David Tennant)** [Film] *One of the great modern Hamlets. Available on Digital Theatre. Watch alongside the text.*

✦ **YouTube: "Why should you read Hamlet?" — Iseult Gillespie, TED-Ed** [Online] *A beautiful five-minute introduction to why Hamlet is the play it is.*

Noughts and Crosses

✦ **To Kill a Mockingbird — Harper Lee** [Fiction] *The great American novel about racial injustice. Read alongside Noughts and Crosses to see how different writers tackle the same subject.*

✦ **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings — Maya Angelou** [Non-fiction] *A memoir about growing up Black in America. Powerful, poetic and essential.*

✦ **Selma (2014)** [Film] *The story of the 1965 voting rights marches. Connects Noughts and Crosses to the real history it draws on. Certificate PG.*

✦ **TED Talk: "The danger of a single story" — Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** [Online] *One of the most important TED talks ever given. Essential for anyone studying identity and prejudice.*

Poetry — Identity, Heritage and Freedom

- ✦ **I Am the Darker Brother — edited by Arnold Adoff** [Fiction] *An anthology of African American poetry — some of the most powerful voices in the English language.*
- ✦ **YouTube: "Still I Rise" — Maya Angelou reading her own poem** [Online] *Hear one of the great poets read one of the great poems. Search on YouTube.*
- ✦ **Poems that Make Grown Men Cry — edited by Anthony and Ben Holden** [Non-fiction] *Poets and writers choose the poems that moved them most. A fascinating window into how poems affect people.*

Year 9 Scholar Recommendations

Jekyll and Hyde

- ✦ **The Picture of Dorian Gray — Oscar Wilde** [Fiction] *Another Victorian novel about the dark side of human nature. Elegantly written and deeply unsettling.*
- ✦ **Frankenstein — Mary Shelley** [Fiction] *The original gothic novel about creation, responsibility and what it means to be human.*
- ✦ **YouTube: "The psychology of evil" — Philip Zimbardo, TED** [Online] *A psychologist asks what makes good people do evil things. Directly relevant to Jekyll and Hyde.*
- ✦ **Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde — BBC Radio 4 dramatisation** [Online] *A powerful audio adaptation. Available on BBC Sounds.*

The Merchant of Venice

- ✦ **The Merchant of Venice — graphic novel by Classical Comics** [Fiction] *A visual guide to the play that helps you follow the plot and the language simultaneously.*
- ✦ **The Merchant of Venice — 2004 film (Al Pacino as Shylock)** [Film] *A powerful adaptation. Al Pacino's Shylock is one of cinema's great Shakespearean performances. Certificate 12A.*
- ✦ **YouTube: "Shylock — victim or villain?" — various academic discussions** [Online] *Search for this question on YouTube. Several good classroom and university discussions available.*

Dr Faustus

- ✦ **Paradise Lost — John Milton (selected extracts)** [Fiction] *Milton's great epic about the fall of Satan. Connects to Faustus's hubris and the idea of damnation through ambition.*
- ✦ **The Master and Margarita — Mikhail Bulgakov** [Fiction] *A novel in which the Devil visits Soviet Moscow. Strange, funny and brilliant.*
- ✦ **Bedazzled (1967 or 2000)** [Film] *A comic retelling of the Faust legend. Watch it to see how the same story can be told completely differently. Both versions suitable.*

Poems of Power, Love and Nature

- ✦ **Poems of the Decade — Forward Arts Foundation anthology** [Fiction] *The poems that have defined contemporary British poetry. Challenging and rewarding.*
- ✦ **Wild — Cheryl Strayed** [Non-fiction] *A memoir about nature, loss and finding yourself. Connects the nature poetry thread to real human experience.*
- ✦ **YouTube: Massolit lectures on Eduqas Anthology Poetry** [Online] *University-level lectures on the poems you'll study at GCSE. Available through your school Massolit account.*

Year 10 Scholar Recommendations

A Christmas Carol

- ✦ **Oliver Twist — Charles Dickens** [Fiction] *Dickens' great novel about Victorian poverty and injustice. Read it alongside A Christmas Carol to understand Dickens's social mission.*
- ✦ **Hard Times — Charles Dickens** [Fiction] *Dickens at his most angry about industrialisation and the treatment of the poor. Essential AO3 context.*
- ✦ **A Christmas Carol — BBC 2019 adaptation** [Film] *A dark, unflinching reimagining that takes the story seriously. Certificate 15 — watch with a parent or carer if under 15.*
- ✦ **YouTube: Massolit — A Christmas Carol lectures** [Online] *University-level analysis of the novella. Available through your school Massolit account.*

An Inspector Calls

- ✦ **An Inspector Calls — Stephen Daldry stage production (filmed)** [Film] *The definitive modern staging. Watch it and compare Daldry's directorial choices to the text. Available on streaming platforms.*

✦ **The Road to Wigan Pier — George Orwell** **[Non-fiction]** *Orwell investigates poverty and class in 1930s Britain. Essential context for understanding what Priestley was writing about.*

✦ **YouTube: Massolit — An Inspector Calls lectures** **[Online]** *University-level analysis. Available through your school Massolit account.*

✦ **TED Talk: "The way we think about work is broken" — Barry Schwartz** **[Online]** *On responsibility, work and society — the ideas at the heart of An Inspector Calls. Search on TED.com.*

Year 11 Scholar Recommendations

Macbeth

✦ **Macbeth — RSC productions (David Tennant / Patrick Stewart versions)** **[Film]** *Two outstanding productions — available on Digital Theatre. Watch both and compare the interpretations.*

✦ **The Tragedy of Macbeth — Joel Coen (2021)** **[Film]** *A stunning black-and-white film adaptation. Certificate 15 — watch with a parent or carer if under 15.*

✦ **YouTube: Massolit — Macbeth lectures** **[Online]** *University-level analysis of the play, the context and the exam. Available through your school Massolit account.*

✦ **YouTube: "Macbeth — the psychology of a murderer" — various** **[Online]** *Several excellent short videos apply psychological theory to Macbeth's behaviour. Search on YouTube.*

Unseen Poetry and Wider Reading

✦ **The Nation's Favourite Poems — BBC** **[Fiction]** *The poems the British public love most. A brilliant starting point for reading poetry for pleasure.*

✦ **Letters to a Young Poet — Rainer Maria Rilke** **[Non-fiction]** *A poet writes to a young man about how to live a creative life. Short, beautiful and unlike anything else.*

✦ **YouTube: "What makes a poem a poem?" — Melissa Kovacs, TED-Ed** **[Online]** *A clear and elegant introduction to how poetry works. Search on YouTube.*