



Together: we care, we challenge, we excel.

“We know what we are, but know not what we may be.”

Hamlet, William Shakespeare



The Key Stage 3 curriculum at Tavistock College is thematic, allowing pupils to study and appreciate an appropriate breadth and depth of literary fiction and non-fiction. Texts covered include classic and modern novels, modern drama, Shakespeare and poetry. Through the use of inspiring and challenging works of literature, pupils develop their reading, writing and speaking and listening skills.

Pupils learn about the writer's use of language, structure and grammar; they also develop the key skills of evaluation and comparison of fiction and non-fiction texts. We see the purpose of Key Stage 3 English as twofold: stimulating a passion for words and language, and providing an ideal stepping stone for the rigorous demands of GCSE English language and GCSE English literature.

Head of English: Miss Emma Herod

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“No two persons ever read the same book.”
Edmund Wilson



Throughout the two-year course all pupils take GCSEs in English literature and English language. Using the AQA specification, pupils study classic literature such as *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Romeo and Juliet*, alongside the modern play *DNA* by Dennis Kelly. An anthology of poetry based on the themes of power and conflict completes the literature element. Within English language pupils develop their creative writing and technical skills (there is a large SPaG – spelling, punctuation and grammar – weighting) as well as tackling non-fiction and fiction from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

These GCSEs offer significant challenges to pupils: closed books exams, unseen passages, and the removal of coursework. For this reason, the English Faculty has designed schemes of learning that provide opportunities for students to develop their memory skills and to acclimatise to the pressures of terminal exams. Despite these demands, we still place great emphasis on creativity and a love of the written word.