

How to Support your Child in English Year 10

2026 leavers achieved 86% 4+, 75.6% 5+ and 37.5% 7-9 in GCSE English. The best outcomes for this subject in the city. We can't wait to support your child in fulfilling their potential during their time here.



The English Curriculum - AQA

- English GCSEs are split into two separate qualifications and a spoken language endorsement alongside.

The AQA English GCSE curriculum aims to develop students' reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. The curriculum also aims to help students:

- Read fluently and with understanding a wide range of texts
- Write effectively and coherently in Standard English
- Use grammar correctly, punctuate, and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary
- Read critically and use knowledge gained from reading to inform their writing
- Develop a love of reading and an appreciation for literature
- Become confident, independent, and resilient thinkers, writers, and communicators

Core Knowledge

Half Term One: Power Poems and Descriptive Writing Jesmond Park Academy

How do writers present power as something that can be created, challenged and lost?

What will we know by the end of this half term?	This links to:
☐ We will know what power is and how it can create imbalances. ☐ We will know that power can be both constructive and destructive, shaping individuals, societies and the natural world. ☐ We will know how to use pathetic fallacy to create powerful descriptions of nature.	- Creative writing completed throughout Year 7, 8 and 9 to create vivid descriptions. - Nature poetry in Year 7, poetry exploring identity in Year 8 and dramatic monologues in Year 9. - Ideas about power in key texts studied in Key Stage 3.

Key vocabulary:

Tyranny – cruel and unfair use of power Power - the ability to control people or events Control - to make something happen the way you want. Pathetic Fallacy - the natural world reflecting the mood	Conflict - a disagreement or struggle Context - the time, place and events surrounding the writing of a text Tone - the feeling a text creates Authority - the power to make decisions or rules
--	--

At the start of next half term, you will be summatively assessed based on your current progress with writing to describe.

- Added to your child's English book each half-term.
- Includes the focus of the unit and key vocabulary to focus on.

What will your child study in Year 10?

Autumn 1	Power and Conflict – Power and Control Descriptive Writing
Autumn 2	Victorian Literature – A Christmas Carol
Spring 1	Shakespeare – Macbeth
Spring 2	Explorations into Fiction Texts – Reading Analysis
Summer 1	Explorations into Non-Fiction Texts – Writing to Argue, Explain and Persuade. Speaking and Listening Assessment
Summer 2	Revision of Literature Texts – Year 10 Mocks Power and Conflict – War

KS4 Assessments – Year 10

Autumn 1	No assessment
Autumn 2	Descriptive Writing
Spring 1	A Christmas Carol – Theme Essay
Spring 2	Macbeth – Theme/Character Essay
Summer 1	Evaluation of writer's intentions Speaking and Listening Assessment
Summer 2	Macbeth and A Christmas Carol Mock Exam

Supporting your child with homework

Year 10
English Homework Booklet
Half Term 1

▷ **Power and Conflict Poetry**
▷ **English Language Paper 1 Question 5**



Name: _____
Class: _____
Teacher: _____

Due Date	Focus	Page	RAG	Teacher Initials
Friday 11th September	Power and Conflict—Key Vocabulary	3		
Friday 18th September	Ozymandias	5		
Friday 25th September	London	7		
Friday 2nd October	My Last Duchess	9		
Friday 9th October	Prelude	11		
Friday 16th October	Storm on the Island	13		
Friday 23rd October	English Language P1 Q5—Descriptive writing	15		
Friday 6th November	English Language P1 Q5—Descriptive writing	16		

English Homework at JPA

Please check the due date of your homework in the table above.
Homework is due every Friday. There will also be a digital copy on the VLE.

You must write your homework by hand on the lined paper provided in this booklet, if this is your normal way of working.

In the RAG column, please rate how confident you are with the tasks you have completed:
If you found it difficult and were not confident—Red (R)
If you found it okay but had forgotten some things—Amber (A)
If you found it straight-forward and managed to remember well—Green (G)
Failure to hand in homework or complete it to an acceptable standard will result in a planner comment.

London by William Blake

London
by William Blake

I wander thro' that charter'd street,
Near where the dog and the dog's head
And where the mews are,
Mark'd with the mews, mark'd with the mews.

In every cry of every man,
In every infirmity of age,
In every grief of every soul,
We hear the sad whistle of the poor.

How the chimney sweeps cry
And how the chimney sweeps cry
And how the chimney sweeps cry
And how the chimney sweeps cry.

But most the little ones cry
How the chimney sweeps cry
How the chimney sweeps cry
How the chimney sweeps cry.

And how the chimney sweeps cry
How the chimney sweeps cry
How the chimney sweeps cry
How the chimney sweeps cry.

Task 1: Vocabulary in Context
Complete each sentence using the correct word.

Words:
chartered • manacles • apoplexy • hapless • harlot • hearse

1. Blake describes the River Thames as _____ because even nature seems to be controlled.
2. The phrase "mind-forg'd" _____ suggests people are trapped by their own beliefs.
3. The suffering in London _____ Blake because it is so widespread.
4. The _____ soldier represents ordinary people who have no power.
5. The _____ symbolises the corruption of relationships.
6. A _____ is a vehicle used to carry a coffin to a funeral.

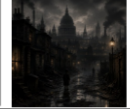
Task 2: Blake's purpose
Complete the table below considering what Blake is criticising in society through the quotations.

Quotation	What is Blake criticising? Explain your idea.
"every cry"	In this quotation, Blake is criticising _____ because _____.
"blackning Church"	
"Palace walls"	
"hapless Soldier"	
"Marriage hearse"	

Task 3: In your view, which institution does Blake criticise most?

- The monarchy
- The Church
- Society
- The government

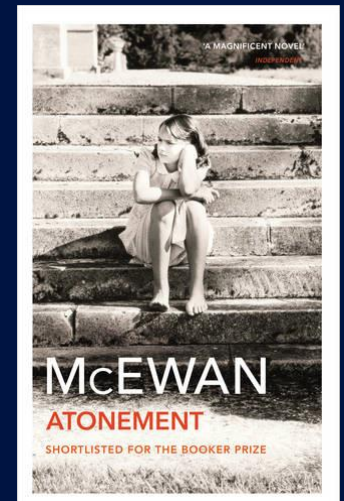
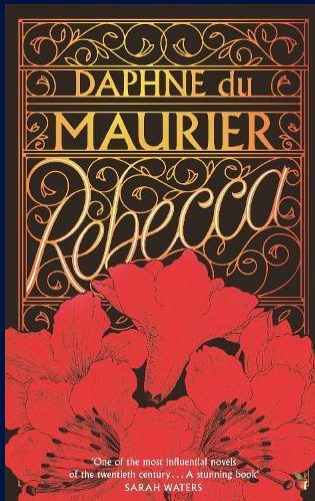
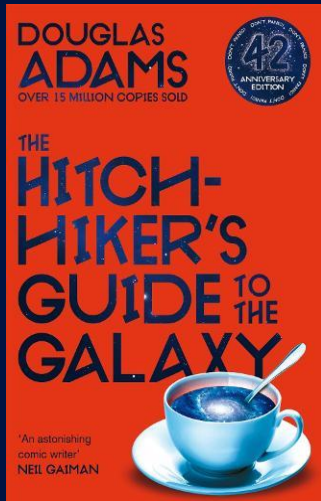
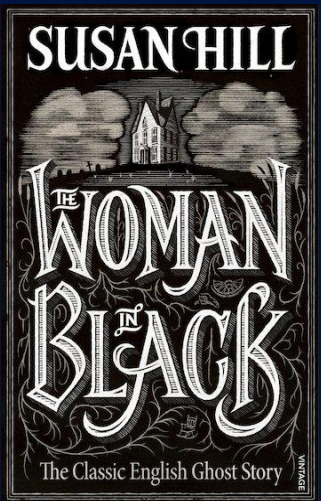
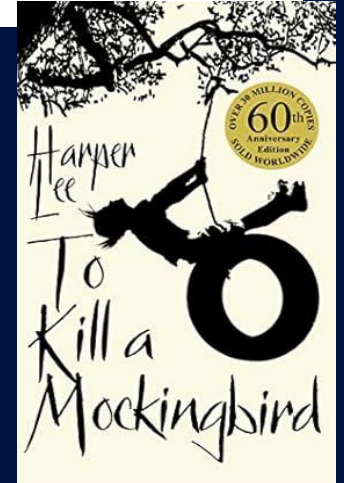
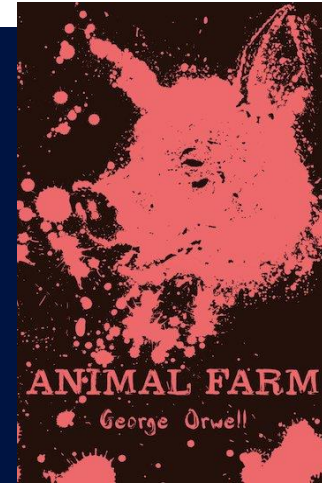
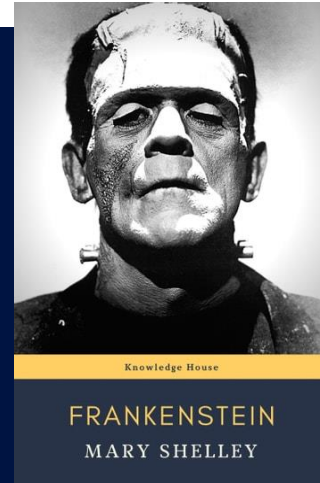
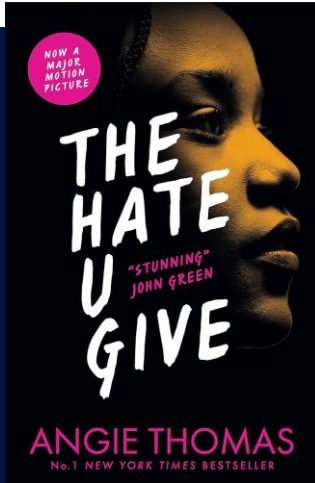
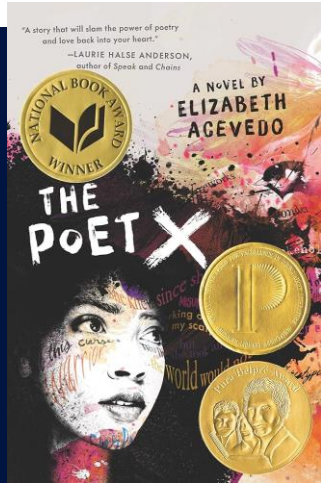
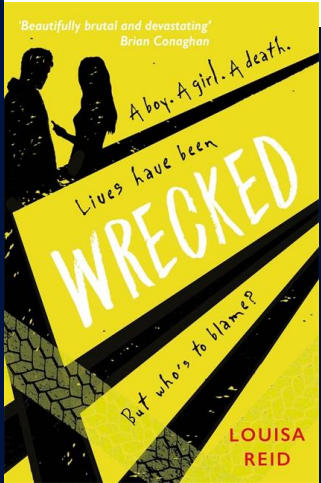
Use two quotations to justify your opinion. Write your response on the next page.



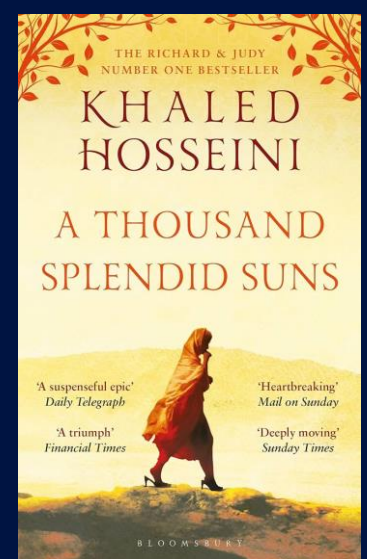
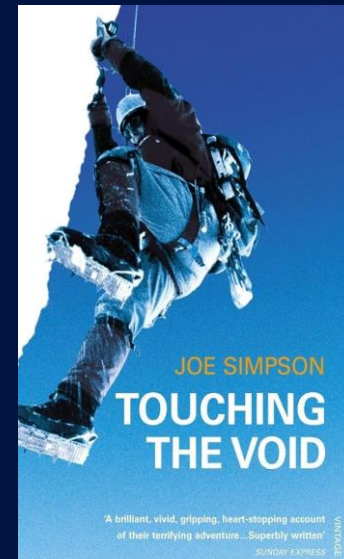
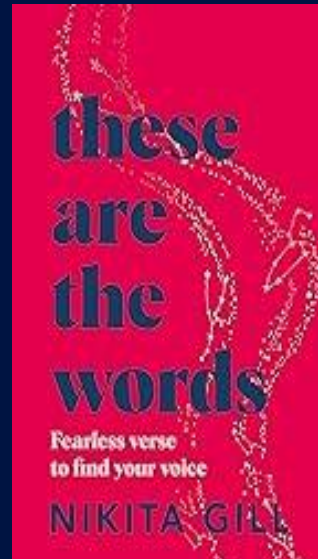
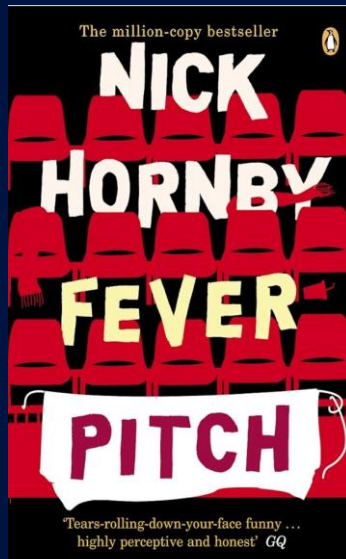
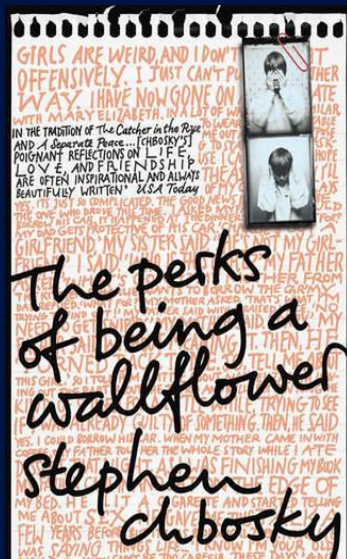
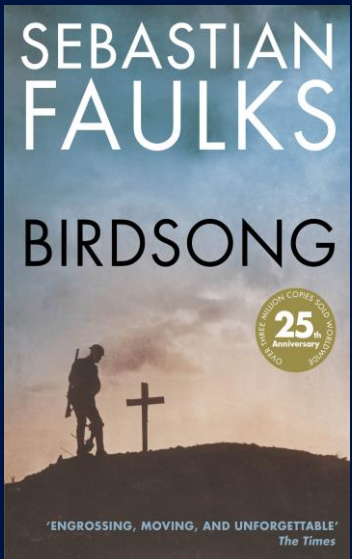
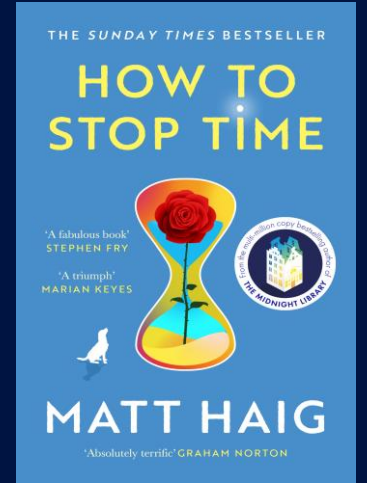
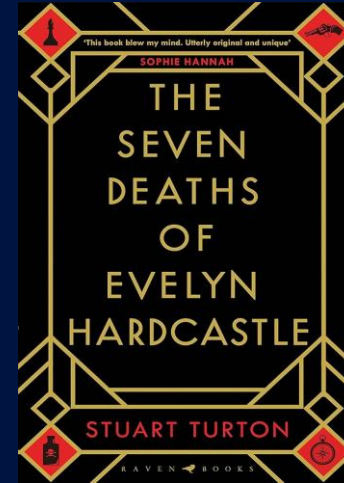
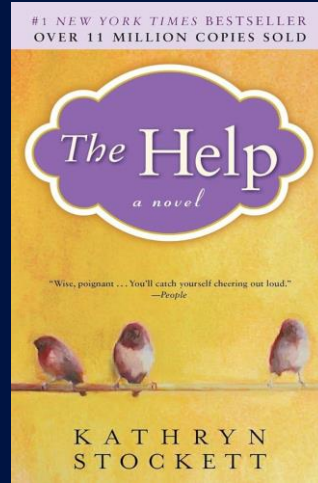
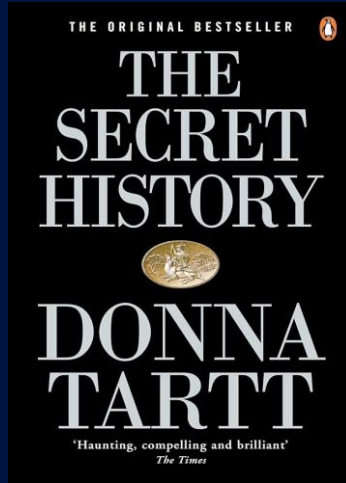
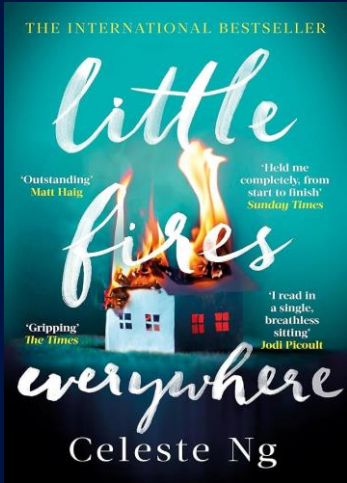
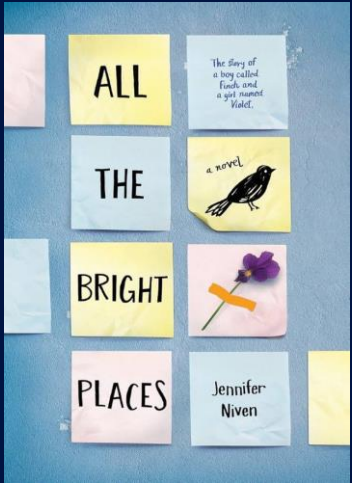
We felt that with the demands of the KS4 curriculum, homework needed to be more robust.

Our KS4 students are given a homework booklet at the start of each half term, with specific homework based on what they've learned that week – or revision in Year 11.

WHAT SHOULD I READ NEXT? KS4



WHAT SHOULD I READ NEXT? KS4



Supporting your child with revision

- Students learn revision techniques both in their subject lessons and their Personal Development lessons.
- There is no correct way to revise. However, there are various methods students can undertake such as:

Re-reading the
set texts

Creating mind maps
and revision posters

Watching revision
videos on YouTube

Revising key quotations
from texts

Using an image to
stimulate creative
writing

Practising essay
writing

Supporting your Child: Team English

A department of 18 dedicated, fantastic teachers!

Head of English: Jennifer Allsopp

English KS3 Co-Ordinator: Gail Henderson

English KS4 Co-Ordinator: Jonathan Clark

English KS5 Co-Ordinator: Spencer Taylor

Reading Co-Ordinator: Daisy Dawson

Thank you for your support at home!

Revision Websites and Sources:

Be wary of any revision sites/apps advertised on social media that ask for a paid subscription. We do not recommend them.

- **Physics and Maths Tutor (has excellent English revision resources!)** - <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/english-revision/gcse-aqa/>
- **Past Papers – English Language** - <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/past-papers/gcse-english-language/>
- **Past Papers – English Literature** - <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/past-papers/gcse-english-literature/> (AQA only)
- **Mr Bruff's YouTube channel** - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w>
- **Mr Salles's YouTube channel** - <https://www.youtube.com/MrSallesTeachesEnglish>

Revision Guides:

- <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/>
- Oxford revise: AQA GCSE English Language revision and exam practice

