

An exciting term for English as we have a wonderful new piece of tech to play with in the classroom- We are the proud users of an enormous touchscreen TV!

This term, students in Year 7 have been diving into the dark and thought-provoking world of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, albeit in the form of a play. Through a mix of reading, discussion, and creative activities, the English department has brought this Gothic classic to life in exciting and engaging ways.

□ **More Than a Monster**

Far from just a horror story, *Frankenstein* has sparked conversations around science and ethics, isolation, and what it truly means to be human. Students have explored key themes such as ambition, responsibility, and the consequences of playing God.

□ **Skills in Focus**

Throughout the unit, students have been:

- Analyzing complex characters and narrative structure
- Learning about the historical and scientific context of the early 19th century
- Developing essay-writing and critical thinking skills
- Engaging in debates and group projects

□ **Celebrating Voices: Poetry from Other Cultures** □ □

This half-term, our Year 8 English class has been exploring the rich and diverse world of **poetry from other cultures**. From Caribbean rhythms to American resistance poetry, students have delved into powerful works that reflect global voices, traditions, and experiences.

□ **Broadening Horizons**

The unit introduced students to poets such as:

- Grace Nichols (*Island Man*)
- Imtiaz Dharker (*Blessing*)
- Langston Hughes (*Dreams*)

These poems sparked meaningful discussions around **identity, belonging, inequality, conflict**, and the enduring power of language.

□ Learning Highlights



Students developed key English skills by:

- Comparing themes, tone, and language across cultures
- Identifying poetic devices like imagery, metaphor, and structure
- Writing analytical responses and personal reflections
- Exploring how history, culture, and politics influence poetry

We've also been creating our own poems, so we can develop our classroom display; The Poet-tree! Every leaf will have a poem on it, so I hope it will be in full bloom by Christmas!

□ English Department Update: Exploring *The Wall* by William Sutcliffe □□

This term, students in Year 9 have been engaged in a powerful and thought-provoking unit centred on *The Wall* by William Sutcliffe — a gripping novel that explores conflict, identity, and moral courage.

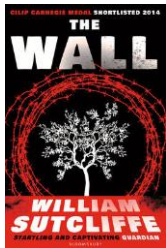
□ A Story of Divides

Set in a fictional world inspired by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, *The Wall* follows a teenage boy named Joshua who begins to question the strict boundaries—both physical and ideological—that define his world. The novel provided a unique opportunity for students to reflect on **prejudice**, **propaganda**, and the cost of staying silent.

□ Key Themes Explored

Throughout the unit, students explored:

- The impact of physical and metaphorical barriers
- The role of propaganda in shaping perspectives
- Ethical decision-making and personal responsibility
- The experiences of people living under occupation or surveillance



□ Building Critical Skills

In their lessons, students developed:

- Analytical reading skills through close examination of characters and language
- Essay-writing techniques with a focus on structure, evidence, and argument
- Debating and discussion skills in structured classroom dialogues
- Empathy and ethical reasoning through guided reading and reflection

□ IGCSE English: Language & Literature in Focus □□

As our IGCSE English students continue their studies this term, we're proud to highlight the hard work, critical thinking, and creativity being shown across both the **Language** and **Literature** courses.

☐ English Literature: Exploring Voices Across Time

Students have been deepening their literary analysis skills through the Unit on Poetry; a range of poems from a wide range of origins and time periods. These explore themes of identity, power, conflict, and relationships across poems from diverse cultures and historical contexts. Students are learning to write structured literary essays, explore writer's intent, and support their points with close textual references—preparing them for both exams and wider academic study.

☐ English Language: Words That Shape the World

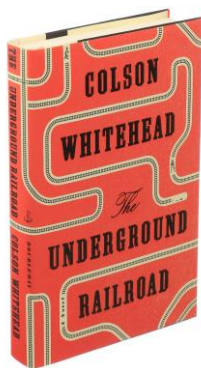
In Language lessons, students are sharpening their reading and writing skills through tasks that challenge their ability to interpret, infer, and create.

Focus areas include:

- **Reading for Meaning:** Analysing non-fiction and literary texts, identifying tone, perspective, and rhetorical devices.
- **Directed Writing:** Recasting material into speeches, reports, or interviews—skills vital for real-world communication.
- **Descriptive and Narrative Writing:** Developing original creative pieces that demonstrate control of language, imagery, and structure.
- **Summary and Comparison:** Practising precise and concise responses that demonstrate understanding of purpose and audience.

☐ A Level English Literature: Studying the Poetry of Sylvia Plath ☐

This term, our solitary English Literature student has been exploring the powerful and haunting poetry of **Sylvia Plath**, one of the most influential voices of the 20th century. Known for her vivid imagery, emotional intensity, and psychological insight, Plath's work offers a rich and challenging experience for young readers and writers.



☐ Exploring *The Underground Railroad* ☐

And we have also been reading and analysing **Colson Whitehead's** award-winning novel *The Underground Railroad* — a powerful and imaginative re-telling of American slavery through a blend of historical fiction and magical realism.