



# HOLY TRINITY

A Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Academy  
St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust

---

23 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We wish to inform you that the school has made some changes to the English curriculum for Years 7,8 and 9. The curriculum which has begun to be implemented since our return to school in January is provided by 'Ark Mastery' and is used by many schools across the country to raise attainment. Research indicates that pupils studying from the Ark Mastery programme are able to make 4 months' additional progress on average.

Across the 7 lessons per fortnight of English which your child receives, 4 lessons will focus on studying texts from our literary heritage, 3 lessons will focus on building writing skills with a significant focus on grammar accuracy and 1 lesson will focus on reading for pleasure and spelling.

The implementation of this programme is in the very early stages. The writing lessons begin with the benchmarking of pupils to measure the standard they are at in terms of knowledge and skills. This is referred to as the 'Pre-programme'. Once this is complete, pupils move onto the Grammar Masterclasses which are stage appropriate. In these lessons, pupils complete grammar drills, rehearsing and repeating grammatical application to move the knowledge from their working memory and into their long term memory – in other words, so it becomes automatic rather than something which they have to think about. This then frees up their working memory to focus on new and more complex learning. This involves lots of repetition and rehearsal.

Once the programme is underway, pupils will be set homework which enables them to continue to rehearse and consolidate their grammar application.

Many schools across the country use Ark English Mastery to deliver their Year 7, 8 and 9 English curriculums so we are confident that over time, the gains will begin to show for our students at Holy Trinity.

If you would like to see the long term overview for the topics being taught, they are available on our school website on the 'Curriculum and Exams' tab at the top of the page.

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs J McCluskey  
Deputy Headteacher



Company No: 13589624