



Spalding High School further information for KS3 (Y7-Y9) 2026-27

Key Stage 3 English: Further Information

At Key Stage 3, we are proud to offer a rich, varied, and inclusive English curriculum that fosters a deep appreciation for both Language and Literature. Our aim is to nurture a love of reading and writing while ensuring all students make meaningful progress through an engaging, diverse, and ambitious programme of study.

We provide opportunities for students to explore the power of the written and spoken word, sparking curiosity, developing critical thinking, and encouraging creativity at every step.

What Will I Study?

Throughout Key Stage 3, you will explore a wide range of fiction, non-fiction, prose, and poetry. You will study texts from different genres, time periods, and cultures—developing your analytical and interpretive skills, as well as your ability to write with precision, imagination, and purpose.

Our curriculum is carefully designed to build the skills needed for success at Key Stage 4 and beyond. You will practise and refine your reading and writing across all three years, so that by the summer of Year 9, you are confidently prepared to begin your GCSE Language and Literature courses.

How Will I Study?

In Years 7 and 8 you will have seven English lessons per fortnight. In Y9 you will have 9 English lessons per fortnight. Across Key Stage 3, one of these lessons will be a dedicated Library/Reading session focused on developing a lifelong love of reading. During these sessions, you will take part in the Accelerated Reader Programme and Star Reading Challenges—working independently toward Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards.

You will also have access to the library as a dynamic learning resource and a quiet space to read for pleasure. Through your study of English Language, you will explore the structure, form and function of language, while in Literature, you'll be exposed to a wide variety of voices, perspectives, and genres, including texts by diverse and contemporary authors.

As you progress, the curriculum increases in challenge, encouraging you to think more deeply, write more fluently, and engage more critically with texts. By the end of Key Stage 3, you will be well-equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to succeed in your GCSE studies and to thrive as an independent learner.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Your progress is carefully tracked using a combination of classwork, homework, and formal assessment tasks. Teachers set targets informed by a range of data, and you will complete regular **Common Assessment Tasks** (CATs) that form an essential part of each unit.

These key assessments are marked using standardised criteria in line with our whole-school assessment policy, and detailed feedback will be provided to help you grow. You will also be encouraged to reflect on your own work and that of your peers—helping you to develop a critical eye and improve your outcomes over time.

Where needed, targeted support or additional challenges will be offered to ensure every student is stretched, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Support and Communication

We are committed to students' success and wellbeing in English Lessons; We operate an open-door policy, please do not hesitate to ask help or support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joanne Lord". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a trailing flourish.

Mrs Joanne Lord (Head of English).