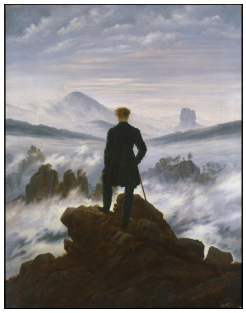
Year 8 English Curriculum

Term	Curriculum content
Michaelmas 1 	**Romantic Poetry** Pupils study a range of poems of the Romantic era, focusing on how poets use language to create meaning in relation to their historical contexts. Pupils will be given insights into the Romantic literary movement, reading poems by renowned poets such as William Blake and William Wordsworth, whilst also studying the historical themes of industrialisation, religion and nature. Pupils will develop their analytical and comparative writing skills, with opportunities to compare and contrast two poems.
Michaelmas 2 	**Julius Caesar** Building on from the Shakespearean Rhetoric unit studied in Year 7, pupils will read their first full Shakespeare text: Julius Caesar. Pupils will develop their writing for analysis, their vocabulary and the use of rhetorical devices. The unit offers opportunities to analyse complex Shakespearean language and dramatic speeches that are rich in rhetoric, serving as valuable preparation for the Shakespeare portion of the GCSE curriculum.
Lent 1 	**The Lord of the Flies** Pupils will read William Golding's timeless novel, *The Lord of the Flies,* whilst also being exposed to rich and complex ideas surrounding philosophy, morality and ethics. Pupils will continue to develop their analytical writing, making links between key extracts and sophisticated vocabulary. This unit also offers the opportunity to develop creative writing against the rich backdrop of the novel's setting.
Lent 2 	**Dystopian Fiction** In this unit, pupils will study an array of fiction from the Dystopian genre, reading a mixture of short stories, such as *The Pedestrian* by Ray Bradbury, and extracts from novels ,including George Orwell's revered *1984*. Pupils will be guided in drawing parallels between the texts and the real-world contexts that may have inspired them.
Trinity 1 	**The Crucible** In this unit, pupils will study another drama text—This time Arthur Miller's 20th century *The Crucible*. Pupils will study the play's purpose as an allegory for Communism in the United States and the 'Red Scare', whilst also developing their writing for analysis, focusing on themes such as paranoia, evil and honour. Whilst reading the text, pupils will be challenged to use sophisticated vocabulary to dissect the allegorical and thematic components of the text.
Trinity 2 	**Non-Fiction Travel Writing** In this unit, pupils will engage with an array of different non-fiction texts linked to the topic and purpose of travel. This unit serves as an opportunity for pupils to develop their writing skills to inform and persuade. This unit focuses primarily on English Language, culminating in a formal assessment which sees pupils writing their own persuasive piece.