



**Quality of Education**  
*Curriculum Intent Statement*  
**Subject: English**



## **Curriculum Vision**

### ***Courage***

English at Bedale is broad, diverse, and open-ended. We aim to develop in students the courage and resilience to engage with a wide variety of different texts: expecting, accepting and embracing both difficulty and difference. In a world of heightened rhetoric and divisive voices, we will enable to students to read and listen with insight and discernment before forming an opinion. We aim to foster within them the confidence and self-assurance to challenge texts and to be challenged by them, to take creative risks in their own work, and to have the courage to make mistakes in order to learn from them.

## **Curriculum Rationale**

### ***Commitment***

We see exam success as an important end in itself as a means to boosting life chances and creating opportunity, and we recognise that in order for any student to flourish in English will require significant commitment and resilience. We aim to provide whatever support and guidance is needed for students to enable them to grow as effective, committed and independent learners with every opportunity to realise their potential in external examinations.

We also believe that, while exam results are important, they are also only a stepping stone in each student's wider development. We want students to become so proficient and fluent in their interactions with language that a full range of language experiences are available to them throughout life: from losing themselves in the words of writers from the past, to engaging on equal terms with those shaping or reflecting the contemporary world. We want them to be able to see themselves in the characters on the pages in books, and to be able to accurately articulate in both spoken and written word their own views and imaginings in a way that satisfies their creative intentions and makes their voices clear and compelling to others. While we believe that the pleasures of reading and writing are available to all, they are still things that will take time, effort, and commitment to achieve. We will give our students the structure and support needed to help them make progress from being functional readers and writers to being confident, active, lifelong students of language.

### ***Compassion***

At Bedale, we sometimes select texts that we anticipate having a particular relevance or resonance with our students in a way that we hope is helpful in making their study meaningful within the context of their own lives. At other times we will deliberately choose voices that are challenging or alien, enabling students to encounter alternative perspectives of the world that we live in: hear different voices, see other worlds, walk in other's shoes. We believe that English has an important role in supporting the emotional and cultural development of students and through reading texts reflect on the way that they treat others and themselves. Choosing texts that offer voices and views of the world beyond Bedale and teaching them in a way that encourages empathy and compassion is a crucial element of our curriculum.