	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Term 1	**All About Me (Transactional Writing)** Welcome to English at Desborough! In this unit, you will read and analyse a selection of autobiographical texts. This will introduce you to PEA paragraphs and you will also write your own autobiographical piece, using language effectively to elicit an emotive response from readers.	**Dragon's Den (Transactional Writing)** In this unit, you will become young entrepreneurs and take part in your very own version of *Dragon's Den*. Your challenge is to come up with a creative idea for a new product or service and pitch it to a panel of 'Dragons' to try and win their investment.	**The Art of Rhetoric: Why do we Love and Hate? (Transactional Writing)** In this unit, you will further secure the basis of persuasive writing by studying and analysing a wide range of famous historical speeches. You will be able to explain how language is used for effect, focusing on rhetoric and using persuasive devices to write and deliver your own persuasive speech.
Term 2	**The Victorian Era (Reading)** In this unit, students explore extracts from Victorian and modern texts to learn about life in the Victorian era. They will look at themes like poverty, class, childhood and adventure, and compare how different writers show these ideas.	**The Yellow Wallpaper and Moneys Paw (Reading)** This unit explores *The Monkey's Paw* and *The Yellow Wallpaper* through the lens of gothic conventions. Students will examine how both texts use eerie settings, suspense, and elements of horror—whether supernatural or psychological—to create fear and tension. The unit encourages comparison of themes like fate, mental health, and confinement, helping students understand how authors use language and structure to engage and unsettle readers.	**A Christmas Carol (Reading)** This unit introduces students to Charles Dickens' classic novella *A Christmas Carol*. Through a close study of key extracts, students will explore how Dickens uses character, setting, and the supernatural to deliver powerful messages about social injustice, redemption, and the true spirit of Christmas. The unit builds analytical skills through discussion, written responses, and contextual exploration of Victorian society, with a focus on how Dickens sought to influence his readers' attitudes toward poverty and generosity.
Term 3	**Greek Mythology (Descriptive Writing)** In this unit, you will study a wide range of myths and legends from a range of mythologies and cultures from around the world. You will explore the structure and conventions of this text type and use this knowledge to create your own mythical world as well as plan and write your own myth	**What Separates the Heroes from the Villains? (Creative Writing)** This unit develops students' imaginative writing skills by exploring the theme of heroes and villains. Students will study characterisation, narrative structure, and language techniques through a variety of engaging extracts and writing tasks. They will learn how to craft compelling protagonists and antagonists, build tension, and experiment with perspective and tone. The unit encourages creativity while reinforcing key writing skills, culminating in an extended narrative piece.	**The Gothic (Creative Writing)** In this unit, students will explore the conventions of Gothic fiction through a range of key extracts from classic and modern texts. They will analyse how writers create atmosphere, tension and fear using setting, character and language. Drawing on these examples, students will develop their own creative writing, crafting vivid and suspenseful scenes inspired by Gothic tropes. The unit builds confidence in narrative writing while deepening understanding of genre and style.

Term 4	**Modern Novel: Private Peaceful (Reading)** Private Peaceful is a whole class reader that will introduce you to whole novel study as well as the context of WW1. You will focus on characters and begin to analyse how to writer presents particular themes throughout a text.	**Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet – (Reading)** In this unit of work, you will be introduced to a Shakespeare play. You will focus on understanding and analysing Shakespeare's language as well as focus on key characters and themes. There will be a focus on understanding context/the time the play was written and the influence this had on Shakespeare.	**Modern Novel: Noughts & Crosses (Reading)** This unit is a whole class reader that links to themes of 'Race in Literature' like Othello. This will develop your critical thinking as you delve into a Dystopian world, exploring characters, themes, and evaluate the writer's purpose and message. This unit will expand your analytical writing as you move away from formulaic approaches and develop your own critical style and approach
Term 5	**Play Study: Shakespeare Rocks! (Reading)** This unit introduces students to the world of Shakespeare through key extracts from a range of his most famous plays. Students will explore central themes such as power, love, ambition, and magic, while becoming familiar with Shakespearean language and stagecraft. Through drama, discussion and analysis, students will build their confidence in reading and interpreting Shakespeare and begin to understand his relevance today.	**A Journey's End (Reading)** This unit focuses on *Journey's End*, a powerful play about the experiences of British soldiers during World War I. Students will explore themes of courage, fear, friendship, and the horrors of war. Through reading key scenes, character analysis, and contextual understanding of the historical period, students will develop skills in drama analysis and empathy. The unit encourages reflection on the impact of war and the human stories behind historical events.	**Hamlet (Reading)** This unit explores Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, focusing on themes of revenge, madness, corruption, and identity. Students will engage with key scenes and soliloquies to understand character development and the play's complex structure. Through discussion, performance and analysis, they will evaluate Shakespeare's use of dramatic techniques and the play's relevance to both Elizabethan and modern audiences.
Term 6	**Poetry of Place/culture** In this unit, you will study a range of poems linked to identify and places. You will explore key concepts about poetry such as atmosphere, tone, mood as well as analysing, and explaining, how different places across the world are portrayed in a range of poems, as well as the effect these have on you as a reader.	**Protest Poetry** In protest poetry, you will study a broad range of poems dealing with ideas of injustice and discrimination to analyse how poets use word choice to create specific meaning for the reader. You will have an opportunity to write your own poem about a topic you care about and share it in a poetry slam format.	**War Poetry** In this unit, you will study a range of poems from different wars, primarily before, during, after WW1. You will compare how the reality of war is presented in these poems, making links to writers' purpose and message. The focus for this unit is on making links between poems and ideas in order to develop your analytical and comparative skills.