

### **English at Key Stage 3**

At Potton, our Year 7 and 8 students receive five hours of English lessons each week, and our Key Stage 3 English curriculum is carefully designed to build on the key skills that children develop during Key Stage 2, as well as providing each pupil with the best possible preparation for the study of English at Upper School.

A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development.

#### **Reading & Writing**

Over the course of Years 7 and 8, children read and explore a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction texts in their English lessons. Our curriculum is structured to build directly on the prior learning that has occurred at Key Stage 2, and to prepare all children for the study of English in Year 9 and at Key Stage 4.

Reading also forms the basis of our teaching of writing, with children analysing high-quality exemplar texts before planning, writing and editing their own. During Key Stage 3, pupils are taught to consolidate and build on their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary through their reading, and are supported in using new vocabulary and grammatical constructions in their own writing in order to achieve particular effects.

#### **Speaking and Listening**

Opportunities for children to develop their skills in speaking and listening are built into all of our units of work. In addition to this, students in Year 7 spend one half-term studying drama and play-scripts, which culminates in an assessed role-play activity. At the end of Year 8, students plan, research and deliver presentations on a theme of their choosing.