**Humanities in English**

**Context**

In English, humanities subjects are covered in a number of different formats. We are fortunate to have a broad and diverse curriculum which lends itself particularly well to group discussions and spoken language. Learners have in the past gained knowledge of the Victorian era through visits to the Back-To-Backs and the Black Country Museum. This has really supported learners in their understanding of historical points of view.

**Geography**

During sessions covering Shakespeare we can link to geography through the following;

* Maps of the world in Elizabethan times
* Forgotten lands
* Key cities and locations in Italian regions

Through the texts in poetry - Power and Conflict and Poetry from other cultures geography is covered in the following ways;

* World War I and World War II battlegrounds
* Understanding of battle zones in the modern era e.g. *Iraq, Bosnia*
* Key locations across the world and way of life for poets from other cultures and traditions

In the Novels Skellig KS3, A Christmas Carol KS4 and the Woman in Black can be linked to Maps of London in 1843 and the areas of the rich and the poor.

Non-Fiction texts such as Journey to other lands, Gullivers Travels and Treasure Island students can look at;

* Changing face of the world, map reading, astrology - physical and human geography of this period

**History**

Through the English curriculum, history links are strong and can be found in all elements of each topic.

Shakespeare:

* Voyages of discovery
* Life at the `Globe’ theatre

Poetry:

Power & Conflict and Poetry from other cultures:

* Context of World War I and World War II
* Key poets background and working life *e.g. Owen, Sassoon, Armitage, Tennyson*
* *Poems by Grace Nichols, John Agard, Caribbean poetry, Moniza Alvi, Nissim Eziechel, Ferlinghetti*

Plays: - The play Inspector Calls can give interesting historical links and context.

* Background to the life of the rich and the poor at the turn of the century
* End of the Victorian era
* Sinking of the Titanic and its relevance

Novels: Skellig KS3, KS4 A Christmas Carol & Woman in Black offer the following links;

* Link to Greek gods
* History of evolution
* Origin of species
* Life in the Victorian era
* Differences between the rich and poor
* How women are viewed in the Victorian era – Fallen woman’

Non-Fiction: The texts Journey to other lands, Gullivers Travels and Treasure Island can provide links to historical information on;

* Link to life on travelling overseas; historical info on pirates, link to 18th century sea travel.

**Religious Education**

The English curriculum can link to RE throughout the ages and provide grounding for texts and other contexts.

Shakespeare: Christian beliefs during the Elizabethan period

Poetry form other cultures: Religions and beliefs from different areas of the world.

Plays: Issues related to marriage at the turn of the 20th Century

Novels: Skellig KS3, KS4 A Christmas Carol & Woman in Black offer the following links; Issues relating to life after death, reincarnation, the after life

* Christian beliefs during the Victorian era
* Sex before marriage
* The after-life and supernatural events

**Pledge for the future:**

The English department would like to in future engage learners further across the humanities, this could be done through trips and visits to any of the following;

* London - Settings for texts and views of historical buildings
* Theatre visits – Live productions e.g. Inspector Calls
* Titanic Museum

**Pastoral Intervention**

Over the past two years the school has invested in ensuring that humanities is embedded in to our pastoral interventions. This has been carried out by developing activities in the following areas:

* Careers
* World Book Day
* 1-1 interventions
* SEMH
* Black History Week
* Documentaries
* Quizzes
* Form time topics and discussions
* Themed events