Content - Big ideas

Autumn 1: Greek Myths Big Question: **What do myths teach us about heroism, morality, and the human experience?**
Learning Outcome: Students will understand key themes of bravery, morality, and consequence in Greek myths, and they will analyse characters and actions to explain how these myths have shaped modern stories.
Further details: This unit explores bravery, morality, and consequences in Greek myths, showing how these ancient stories influence modern tales.

Autumn 2: Shakespeare's Heroes & Villains Big Question: **How do Shakespeare's heroes and villains reflect human strengths and flaws?**
Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyse Shakespearean characters, understanding how their flaws lead to their downfall. They will also explore how heroism can involve sacrifice, defiance, and complex moral decisions.
Further details: Students will study Shakespeare's characters, focusing on hubris, sacrifice, and how heroism and villainy are intertwined.

Spring 1: Fairy Tales Big Question: **How do fairy tales explore innocence, corruption, and power?**
Learning Outcome: Students will analyse how fairy tales use symbolism and character archetypes to convey deeper meanings about human nature, particularly the corruption of innocence and concept of heroism.
Further details: This unit examines how fairy tales symbolise innocence, power, and corruption, using simple settings to express complex ideas.

Spring 2: Poetry of the Romantics Big Question: **How do Romantic poets reflect society's desire for stability and individual freedom?**
Learning Outcome: Students will interpret Romantic poetry, understanding how it reflects the tension between societal stability and individual freedom. They will analyse the use of language and imagery in conveying emotion and ideas.
Further details: Students will explore how Romantic poets express the tension between societal expectations and individual freedom through nature and emotion.

Summer 1 & 2: Boy Overboard Big Question: **How does Boy Overboard challenge conventional thinking about society, conformity, and identity?**
Learning Outcome: Students will analyse characters and themes in Boy Overboard, exploring how unconventional ideas and characters are treated by society. They will connect these themes to broader societal pressures and the struggle for individuality.
Further details: This unit focuses on characters who challenge societal norms, exploring themes of identity, conformity, and unconventional thinking.

Prior learning

Global/IOM/Subject Links

Global Citizenship: Discuss moral and ethical dilemmas across cultures in Boy Overboard and the societal expectations in myths and literature.
Manx Context: Explore the Isle of Man's history and cultural identity through comparisons of local legends with Greek Myths and fairy tales.
Cross-curricular links: Link to History (societal development in ancient times and the Romantic era), Drama (Shakespeare), and Geography (locations in Boy Overboard).

Subject specific skills development

Curricular Narrative: Y7 progresses from foundational myths that shape society to complex modern literature, building comprehension and critical thinking.
Comprehension to Critical Thinking: Students move from basic understanding to critical analysis, making connections across texts and supporting ideas with evidence.
Vocabulary Instruction: Focused on versatile, powerful language that aids in understanding heroism, power, and societal change.
Written Fluency: Grammar instruction develops from simple sentences to complex analytical writing.
Developing Voice: Structured oracy builds verbal and written fluency, with opportunities to experiment with new vocabulary and grammatical structures.
Written Craft: Students master various genres, such as diary entries and articles, refining their voice across different forms.
Critical Reading: Students read a diverse range of texts, building understanding through direct vocabulary instruction and structured analysis.