

Key Stage Three Rationale - Alphabets

'Alphabets' by Seamus Heaney

KS3 Creative Writing and iMedia Education Programme

Cross curricular links: graphic design, photography, digital technology

The poem *'Alphabets'* was written by Seamus Heaney in 1984; in it he recalls the process of learning how to read and write - a process that enabled him to 'journey into the wideness of the world'. He said: 'I had already begun a journey into the wideness of the world. This in turn became a journey into the wideness of language, a journey where each point of arrival – whether in one's poetry or one's life – turned out to be a stepping stone rather than a destination, and it is that journey which has brought me now to this honoured spot.' (Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, Stockholm 1995)

The KS3 *'Alphabets'* education programme at HomePlace has been devised to enable students to journey into the wideness of *their* world; to explore the world of language, letters and creativity.

Links to Statutory Requirements for English with Media Education (CCEA)

Through engagement with peers, poetry, prose, and multimedia which enhance creativity and stimulate curiosity and imagination, pupils will have opportunities to become creative and effective communicators by:

- expressing meaning, feelings and viewpoints;
- talking to include debate and group discussions;
- listening actively and reporting back;
- reading and viewing for key ideas, enjoyment, engagement and empathy;
- writing and presenting in different media;
- interpreting visual stimuli;
- developing an understanding of different forms, genres and methods of communication and an understanding of how meaning is created;
- developing their knowledge of how language works and their accuracy in using the conventions of language, including spelling, punctuation and grammar;
- analysing critically their own texts;
- using a range of techniques, forms and media to convey information creatively and appropriately.

Pupils will have the opportunity to:

- Engage, through language, with their peers and with fictional and real-life characters and situations, to explore their own emotions and develop creative potential
- Explore the use of language and imagery in conveying and evoking a variety of powerful feelings,
- Use literature, drama, poetry or the moving image to explore others' needs and rights,
- Explore the power of a range of communication techniques to inform, entertain, influence and persuade

Pupils will be encouraged to:

- manage information effectively, using ICT where appropriate;
- demonstrate creativity and initiative when developing ideas and following them through;
- work effectively with others;
- demonstrate self-management by working systematically, persisting with tasks, evaluating and improving own performance;
- communicate effectively in oral, visual and written formats showing clear awareness of audience and purpose and attention to accuracy.

As a result of participation in the 'Alphabets' programme pupils will receive a greater appreciation of the world around them and a real sense of pride in their own creativity, each instilled through the work of Seamus Heaney.