

Shirley Smith High School Vision and Values

Grow with us.

At Shirley Smith High School, teaching and learning is authentic, rigorous, and designed to maximise student agency. We align deep disciplinary knowledge and excellent pedagogical practice to ensure our learners are empowered to find their purpose, fulfil their potential, and shape their own futures.

Students at Shirley Smith High School are:

Curious

brave and open minded inquirers with a desire to know and understand

Connected

inclusive young people connected to each other, connected to their community and connected to Country

Learners

creative empowered learners with boundless potential for their futures and the future of our planet

Subject Details

Subject/s:	English	Learning Area:	Global Perspectives
Teacher/s:	Matt Barry, Ashleigh Hansen, Lauren Eager and Rachel Bartlett	Learning Period:	Semester Two, 2026

Engagement in Learning

In order to facilitate active engagement in their learning, students are expected to:

- Arrive prepared for their lessons, equipped with a fully charged chromebook, a notebook, a pen or pencil, and any other subject-specific materials that may be necessary.
- Independently make an effort to retrieve and complete any missed assignments or coursework due to absences or extracurricular activities during their own time.
- Embrace the principles of the school's Yindyamarra wellbeing framework by treading lightly. This involves taking moments to pause, authentically connecting with others, engaging in deep listening, thoughtful reflection, and considering the impact of their actions on others.

Learning and Assessment Policies

Please see the school website for policies regarding the submission of late work, extension requests for assessment tasks, and plagiarism and academic integrity.

Description of Learning

Unit overview:

Journalism and Media

This unit will develop students' understanding of journalism and media with a focus on bias, persuasive language manipulation and creating for specific audiences. Using mentor texts as models, students will experiment with different media forms and perspectives, learning how to shape and organise ideas effectively. Explicit instruction will support

students in applying correct grammar and punctuation, selecting and varying vocabulary, and experimenting with persuasive language and other visual and audio devices. By the end of the unit, students will create structured, polished media texts that demonstrate control of language, persuasion and point of view.

Shakespeare Unit

This Year 9 unit will provide an introduction to Shakespeare, looking at historical contexts and modern interpretations. Students will view sonnets, poems and excerpts from Shakespearean texts and an in depth look at Romantic theatre, using Romeo and Juliet as a central text. Students will then complete an analytical assessment on the play and the presentations of Shakespeare through time.

Unit learning outcomes:

By the end of this unit, students will demonstrate a level of achievement for the following standards:

- Selects and experiments with language features including literary devices, and experiments with multimodal features and features of voice
- Reads, views and comprehends a range of texts created to inform, influence and/or engage audiences
- Analyses representations of people, places, events and concepts, and how texts respond to contexts
- Analyses the aesthetic qualities of texts
- Analyses the effects of text structures, and language features including literary devices, intertextual references, and multimodal features
- Selects and experiments with text structures to organise, develop and link ideas when writing and creating
- Selects and experiments with language features including literary devices, and experiments with multimodal features

Assessment:

Task	Approximate Due Date
- Class work	Ongoing
- Formative Assessment	Ongoing
- Journalism Portfolio	14/09/2026
- Comparative Shakespeare Assessment	23/11/2026

Learning Experiences

Throughout the unit, students may have the opportunity to engage in the following learning experiences:

Incursions/Excursions - Creative writing workshop / write a book in a day / book week

Competitions - Writing competitions

Film Studies - Romeo and Juliet

Please contact your child's teacher if you do not wish for your child to view these films.