



PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO LEARNING!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This month the English team will be working hard to deliver engaging, interesting and challenging lessons to your children. We urge that you do your very best to ensure that your child is in school and available for learning every day. Attendance is very important in all Key Stages and is absolutely essential in KS4. As students begin their iGCSE course work, missed lessons can be very difficult to catch up on.

Grade 6

Wonder will continue with grade 6 in Ms. Niamh and Ms. Nicola's classes. Students will spend their lessons learning about the trials and tribulations of August's life through various tasks including: reading, role play scenarios, written analysis and group work activities. They will be required to continue with their weekly homework in grammar and vocabulary. Mrs. Lamia and Ms. Rachel's classes will continue their study of the Fairy Tale narrative. During this module they will explore key literacy skills through the medium of Fairy Tales which promises to engage and excite our students.

Towards the end of the month all students will be expected to prepare for their check point assessment on this module. This check point will be a progress check for students based on what they have covered since the beginning of term 2. This will help teachers understand what your child has learned and what they need further support with. Teachers will provide students with further information and information will also be placed on BRIC.

Grade 7

Ms. Niamh, Mrs. Lamia and Ms. Nicola's classes will continue their study of Louis Sachar's book *Holes*. They will investigate the events which happen at camp Greenlake. The lessons will explore the character development of major and minor characters and analysis of narrative devices (such as suspense, climax and cause and effect). Students will begin to explore the importance of symbolism in literature and how these literary symbols can be written about in a critical manner. Mr John's class will develop their use of an analytical paragraph on character, theme and also structural devices within *A Monster Calls*. Both of these novels will be taught through role play, group work, debate, questioning sessions and a variety of other activities to ensure maximum engagement and learning.

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Grade 8

Ms. Nicola and Ms. Rachel's classes are exploring the Victorian detective novelist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in his *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Students will focus heavily upon an in-depth study of the language used by Doyle in his depiction of Sherlock and the mysteries he uncovers. Evidence has proven how the study of Sherlock Holmes fiction helps students to understand inference and deduction, a skill which is otherwise difficult to acquire.

Mr. Johh's class will continue a similar educational journey with *A Monster Calls* as the character of Conor pieces together the message sent to him by the monster.

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Grade 9

Grade 9s have been working tirelessly this term as they become familiar with the course expectations, and they begin to understand their own language skills. It has been noted by all teachers and visitors to classrooms that students are progressing well and their hard work is appreciated.

Ms. Niamh and Mr. John's students will continue with the Anthology study having completed 4 of them already. It is hoped that study of the anthology will be completed by the end of this term. This requires students to examine language and structure and how these have been utilised to achieve an effect. The anthology has been widely studied across the UK and the wider world which means that there is a plethora of free online resources for your child to use to help support them through the module.

Mrs. Lamia and Ms. Rachel's class will explore key exam skills in the listening examination and also in their written examination. Literacy will always be a major focus in this course and both Mrs. Lamia and Ms. Rachel will be working together in an attempt to bridge the gaps in their learning in order to support them in accessing the exam paper. This will include: punctuation, grammar and also help generating an understanding of writing forms. Students have access to a wide variety of websites to aid them in this. A list of which is available on BRIC.

Next Steps

Homework in the English department is, as always, a very important element of our teaching. Homework is given out every lesson. If your child claims to have no written homework then be assured that they have reading (as part of their reading challenge) or review work (which helps prepare for their continuous assessment).

Reading is one of the single most effective tools for improvement in the subject of English it is therefore imperative that reading is done regularly. Reading should be relaxing, fun and insightful. Please take the time to consider your child's book choice and encourage them as much as you can.

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Thank you for your ongoing support,

The English Team