



PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO LEARNING!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After two very successful terms here at Al Basma we are delighted to welcome the third and final term. This term promises to be the best one yet as we plan to utilise every minute of it, and fill it with learning which will help your children meet or exceed their expected targets.

Grade 6:

All Grade 6 students are exploring various versions of the Tempest. Ms. Lamia and Ms. Rachel's students are looking at story versions of the play with a focus on plot and characters. Parents can assist students by questioning them about the plot and looking at the various resources on line, BBC's Shakespeare unlocked is particularly helpful. Ms. Niamh and Ms. Nicola's students are exploring the original text with occasional support from a simplified English version. It is important that students are keeping up with homework and catching up on any missed work due to absence, this will help to ensure that students make maximum progress.

At the end of May (dates to be confirmed by individual teacher), students will be assessed on their knowledge of the play through a written and an oral assessment. Details of this checkpoint will be shared with students. However, common to all classes is a need for revision of characters, plot and analytical paragraphs.

Grade 7:

All Grade 7 students are exploring various versions of Shakespeare's Macbeth. All students are exploring the characters, the character's development, plot and language. Depending on class set, they are given various amounts of support from modern English versions of the play. It is hoped that studying the play and its language will help to develop student's higher order thinking skills as they are forced to interpret the various meanings hidden within the language of Shakespeare. These skills include: communication, inference, deduction, analysis and interpretation.

At the end of May (dates to be confirmed by individual teacher), students will be assessed on their knowledge of the play through a written and an oral assessment. Details of this checkpoint will be shared with students. However common to all classes is a need for revision of characters, plot and analytical paragraphs.

Grade 8:

All students are studying the 1930's novel Of Mice and Men by the acclaimed American author John Steinbeck. This is the first of the prescribed iGCSE texts which they have to study as part of the literature course. They will have to use this text for both the course work component and also in part of the iGCSE exam. It is a highly interesting and engaging book which offers the opportunity for lots of analysis and inference, all of which help to make it a perfect exam text.

To help support your child you can help them to become familiar with America in the 1930s (the Great Depression) and also the 1920s (The Roaring 20s). It could help to read some other texts by Steinbeck including Grapes of Wrath or other books appropriate to the context. It is important that students are in school every day for this module, as it is a part of their iGCSE course which will not be revisited due to time constraints.

Grade 9:

Mrs Lamia and Ms Rachel's students are exploring the various versions of Travel writing. Students will combine their own experience of travel and that of other popular travel literature forms. Students will see how effective writing can captivate an audience and instantly teleport them from their stuffy class rooms to another world. There is a strong focus on writing and writing skills and as always vocabulary and grammar will be assessed throughout this module.

Ms Niamh and Mr John's class will continue to work through their poetry anthology exploring the prescribed poems in relation to their structure, language and form. There will also be some additional homework given in transactional writing which will help to improve their writing skills.

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. Across all year groups vocabulary is of big importance and it is essential for your children to revise these regularly in order for them to be able to access the materials in lesson.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries, we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

The English Team