



PUTTING THE FUN BACK  
INTO LEARNING!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I wish to bid a warm welcome to new and returning students of Al Basma for what promises to be a year filled with learning, challenge and enjoyment.

This year the English team, that is Mr John, Mrs Lamia , Ms Nicola ,Ms Shahima ,Ms Rachel and myself, Ms Niamh, plan to teach thoroughly engaging and challenging lessons to ensure that your child makes maximum progress in English.

### **Grade 6:**

Grade 6 students will closely read a variety of poems by a selection of poets. Students will appreciate the importance of the contextual background of a poet and the impact of the life of a poet on their poetry. Students will focus on considering themes within poetry studied, recognising the tone of a poem, identifying poetic devices and considering their effect. They will also focus on using point, evidence, explanation in their responses to a poem. Through their study of poetry the children will develop the core competencies of communication, independent learning, team work and collaboration.

Once a week the children will receive a lesson on grammar and vocabulary. They will have a weekly spelling test based on new vocabulary studied each week. There will be a continued focus on reading within class and children are encouraged to read at home. It is expected that the children bring a novel to class every day.

### **Grade 7:**

Students in Grade 7 have started World War One Poetry. After becoming familiar with the context, they will spend the next few weeks exploring the themes, the language and the different techniques used by well-known poets to convey their messages and express their opinions about the Great War.

Students will read, understand and analyse poems in class, they will also be assigned homework to complete. This will develop their independence, resilience as well as other core competencies. Students will also continue to have regular grammar and vocabulary lessons, which will help them, develop their writing skills and enable them to communicate more effectively.

### **Grade 8:**

Grade 8 will focus on specific types of poetry that deal with emotion shown through certain structures. They will begin to examine in more detail poetry that was written to be heard rather than written to be read. They will look at many different types of poetry from a variety of famous poets. Within these types of poetry, the students will examine their origins and by being exposed to both ancient and modern poetry they will analyse how the format has changed throughout time. Students

will be expected to comment on the techniques used in each poem as well as commenting on the mood and structure established throughout each poem.

This will be in conjunction with a grammar lesson and a vocabulary lesson testing their knowledge and spelling of ambitious words

### **Grade 9:**

Students in grade 9 will study different material dependent upon which teacher they have been assigned. Ms Niamh and Ms Rachel's classes will begin to cover their iGCSE poetry anthology (of which they should all have a copy), there are 16 poems in total which will be covered and assessed every two weeks. These assessments will assess the students' in-depth knowledge of the poem; their understanding of context and also their ability to create an essay which presents a critique on the poem. Homework is plentiful and revision is essential.

Mr John and Mrs Lamia's classes are exploring a Dragon's Den module which will concentrate on different writing forms. This module aims to assess the students' basic understanding and highlight areas which require further study and teaching associated with writing skills. This module will rely heavily upon grammar and language constructions both of which are vital for their progress in English. Similarly, there will be nightly homework and revision required.

### **Grade 10**

Ms. Niamh and Mr John's classes will begin with literature this term with the study of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The first few lessons will explore the context of Shakespeare which will give them an insight into the background and the inspiration behind the Scottish Play. Teachers have selected elements of this which will help them to understand the play better but will also provide them with the contextual details required for their literature paper 2 examination.

Ms Lamia and Ms Rachel will explore reading modules this term. They are looking at reading skills through the medium of A Global Citizenship module this will give the students the opportunity to explore what it means to be a global citizen through various different text forms. This term aims to improve the reading styles and abilities of students.

### **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 high importance and it is essential for your children to revise their spelling and vocabulary regularly in order for them to be able to access the materials in lesson.

There will also be a book fair which students can access at an assigned slot on the first week back after half term. It is hoped that this book fair will help students to purchase books to keep them reading over the coming terms.

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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