



PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO LEARNING!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we near the end of term, it is almost time for us to finish assessing your child's progress. Each year group will be assessed, as part of the continuous assessment we have at Al Basma, on what we have covered since January. I can assure you that everything covered in the assessment has been taught in their lessons and there is no need for additional materials for the assessment. The English team have worked hard to ensure that your son or daughter is fully prepared for the assessment. It will support them to prepare by reviewing their notes, books and sample answers which have been given to them by their teachers.

Grade 6:

Ms Niamh and Ms Nicola have been exploring Palacio's novel *Wonder*. Their understanding of the novel, its characters and the author's language will be assessed. In order to prepare for the assessment, it is important for students to read the novel, be familiar with the plot, language and characters. It is also highly advisable for them to practice PEE paragraphs and review the sample paragraphs which they have in their good books.

Mrs Lamia and Ms Rachel's class have been studying various Fairy tales including *Cinderella*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *the Briar Rose*. Their understanding of the stories, description of the main characters and ability to find quotations to support their answers will be assessed. It is important for students to review the notes in their note books, review the vocabulary on their worksheets and also practice the PEE paragraphs which their teacher has given them.

All classes will be assessed on the vocabulary and grammar which they have covered since the beginning of the term. Details of which can be found in their vocabulary and grammar books.

Grade 7:

Ms Niamh, Mrs Lamia and Ms Nicola's classes have explored *Holes* by Louis Sachar. In their assessment, they will be assessed on their understanding of character formation and development; literary features including the different types of irony and also on the author's literary style and how these combine to create an effective adventure novel. They will need to study their notes, the sample answers in their good books and also work sheets which they have been given. As *Holes* is a popular book there is a wealth of resources available online which should help to support them in reviewing this topic.

Mr John's class will look at *A Monster Calls*. This novel will be assessed through an analysis of how the characters are developed in the novel and the different ways in which grief has affected them. The author's craft and style will also be assessed through analytical essays. Their books will help to support them in their preparation for their assessment.

Grade 8:

Ms Nicola's and Ms Rachel's classes have been studying *Sherlock Holmes* which has, thus far, been a very challenging and engaging module. This module has worked on fine tuning student's skills of

inference. This module's assessment will monitor how students infer meaning regarding character, setting and plot. In order to prepare for this assessment, students will focus on the producing a developed analytical essay on the novel choosing from a variety of different questions. These questions are very similar to what they have been studying in their class and homework from the beginning of term.

Mr John's class will look at *A Monster Calls*. This novel will be assessed through the development of characters in the novel and the different ways in which grief has affected them. The author's craft and style will also be assessed through analytical essays. Their books will help to support them in their preparation for their assessment.

Grade 9:

Grade 9s will all be assessed using a full language paper. This will be important in providing teachers with a good indication of where they are now and will signpost the next steps.

All teachers of Grade 9 insist that homework must be completed and be on time, otherwise, the progress of your child will be hindered. The continuous assessment of grade 9s means that students should be already well prepared and used to the structure of the exam.

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