



PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO LEARNING!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I wish to thank parents for attending parents' evening. As always it is a delight to meet you and share the fantastic things your child is doing at school. It is always reassuring to see how well supported our students are at home. Your support is much appreciated.

This year the English team, that is Mr John, Mrs Lamia, Miss Nicola, Miss Rachel and myself Ms Niamh, endeavor to work tirelessly in a bid to ensure that your child is offered engaging, challenging and focused lessons guaranteeing optimum progression in all aspects of English.

Grade 6:

The grade 6 students are now ready to tackle module two of their English program which concentrates on the art of non-fiction writing. Whilst the word "creative" generally refers to the use of literary craft and the techniques that fiction writers employ - we will explore a much finer art which is that of non-fiction writers and how they portray factually accurate prose about real people and events - in a compelling, vivid, dramatic manner. Ms Niamh's boys class and Ms. Nicola's girls will explore the book *Voices in Time* which looks at a plethora of non-fiction writing forms from diary entries, letters, biographies etc., from famous people across the globe. Mrs. Lamia's boys, Ms. Rachel's girls and Ms. Nicola's boys will explore non-fiction writing through the medium of the iconic 1912 sinking of the Titanic.

Grade 7:

This term grade 7 will be captivated by all things Gothic. They will explore the Gothic literary form of the late 18th early 19th century. The complex context will be examined linking in with writers such as Shelly, Stoker and American author Allen Poe. The main focus of the module is on how gothic authors succeeded in creating a form which continues to interest and engage the society of today. Rather than concentrating on analysing the texts, as they have done in their poetry module, they will concentrate on the way in which the writers craft language to achieve a particular effect. They will read superb pieces of work and will have to identify the structural, language and technical components of the writings in the hope of being able to use them themselves in the production of their own gothic story. All grade 7s, both boys and girls, will be delivered a tailored version of this module differentiated to meet their needs.

Grade 8:

In an effort to transition the grade 8s into their iGCSEs their next module will focus on iGCSE writing objectives. At the end of the module, students will be able to write in a variety of different writing forms including: editorials, articles, advice columns, writing to persuade etc. . The module will be delivered through the medium of a journalism module, students will produce a newspaper at the end of the module. Each week they will be assigned a task and a deadline which they have to meet. Students will be encouraged to work independently on their tasks and they will be encouraged to meet the deadlines accordingly. Students will develop a lot of vital skills in this module therefore we urge that students do not miss any lesson time and also produce homework to a high standard.

Grade 9:

Ms. Niamh's and Mr John's English classes will continue with the exploration of *Of Mice and Men*. With a focus on exam skills they will become familiar with the examination mark scheme. This month we will also introduce them to Section B of the exam paper which will explore writing skills through writing effectively to a specific writing form. Students will be supported through Bric with the upload of additional resources, exam papers and mark schemes. At the end of this month they will have a final assessment on *Of Mice and Men* which will be in the form of a timed exam paper and will be marked in accordance with the official mark scheme.

Ms. Lamias and Ms. Rachel's English class will focus on a writing workshop which will focus on the students' use of language and how they craft their language for a deliberate effect. This module will also explore different writing forms including diaries, letters, biographies and autobiographies. This module promises to fill some of the gaps in their creative writing knowledge and introduce some new concepts to help them. They will also continue with their vocabulary and their grammar lessons.

Next Steps

As you can see from the details above, this month promises to be a challenging and engaging one for your child. It is therefore imperative that homework is completed to the highest of standards. You should expect vocabulary, reading and some writing homework at least 3 times a week or more for children in the upper grades. Homework is an opportunity for your child to really embed the skills they have acquired that day. In English, homework plays a vital role in your child's progression. Bric will support this learning through providing online resources, copies of homework and additional reading which will help to support your child's learning.

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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