



PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO LEARNING!

Curriculum Guide English

October 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians

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

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. It is hoped that with our hard work and the dedication of your children it will be a successful year at Al Basma.

Grade 6

This term grade 6 will be studying a poetry module. The children 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 the 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.

Students will be assessed on the poetic devices studied and their ability to recognise them within a poem. Once a week the children will receive a lesson on grammar and vocabulary. They will have a weekly spelling test based on the 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 everyday

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, but they will also be assigned homework to complete. This will develop their independence, and 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. There will be an assessment by mid-October for their understanding of the topics covered and their ability to use correct grammatical structures as well as vocabulary.

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. The two forms of poetry are sonnets and ballads. Within these poetry types the students will examine their origins and by being exposed to both ancient and modern ballads and sonnets they will analyse how the format has changed throughout time. A sample of the types of poems they will study are: ballads (Someone like You, The Sad Story of Lefty and Ned, and In the Ghetto) and sonnets (Ozymandias, Piano). 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 studied in conjunction with a grammar lesson, a library lesson and a vocabulary lesson testing children's knowledge and spelling of ambitious words.

Grade 9

This term sees grade 9 begin studying for their English IGCSE. Students are exploring the novella 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck. Thus far, students have studied the context of the novel and explored how this affects character development. Over the next month, students will be honing their information retrieval skills as well as beginning to analyse Steinbeck's language choices - looking at explicit and implicit meanings and foreshadowing. In addition, students will continue to explore different writing styles including the writing of news articles and diary entries. Students will also be given the opportunity to take part in speaking and listening tasks, both dramatic and public speaking based.

Assessment for this module will explore the plot of the novel, the context and the writer's craft. Students will be required to analyse the novel, taking into account all the things that have affected the way in which it is written.

Next Steps

As you can see from the details above, this term 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 years. 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