

GCSE English: What is your child studying this term?

Y10: This term pupils will be starting with work on **Unseen Poetry** and will also begin their study of some of the **Anthology poems**. Both of these elements are in preparation for **Paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry** which will be their end of year 10 examination. At the end of September all pupils will commence their study of their first set text which will be their modern text. Teachers will choose from a range of texts; those studied at Helsby high school are: Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman, An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley, Blood Brothers by Willy Russell and Lord of the Flies by William Golding, your child's teacher will inform them on which text they have chosen. Texts need to be purchased by pupils so they can annotate them. Pupils will complete their study of the modern text by Christmas and will also complete an assessment on the text. Students have settled into their new groups and staff have been impressed by the work, responses and engagement with the lessons. The new groups are having a positive effect on attitudes to learning and the self-esteem of all pupils regardless of ability.

Y11: All pupils will be studying their 19th century novel this term. Teachers have chosen from a range of texts and your child will be studying either: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, Frankenstein by Mary Shelley or Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. If your child finds reading the text a challenge you could encourage them to try listening to the audio version, there are many available for free online.

Pupils will complete a **Paper 1 Literature exam for their PPE in November**. This paper has 2 sections, Section A: Shakespeare Play and Section B: 19th Century Prose.

In Language lessons pupils will be alternating their studies of Paper 1 and 2 on a 2 weekly basis to ensure they are well prepared for the November PPE which will be examination of both Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing and Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints and Perspectives.

For both Language & Literature the English department will run revision sessions. Language will be on Tuesdays 3.15-4.15pm & Literature will be on Thursdays 3.15-4.15pm. These sessions will commence on Wednesday 5th October and continue until the examinations which are:

Literature paper 1 Shakespeare & 19th Century Literature: 22nd May 2017

Literature paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry : 26th May 2017

Language Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing: 6th June 2017

Language Paper 2 Writer's viewpoints and Perspectives: 12th June 2017

If you would like further information on either qualification please go to:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700> for English Language and <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702> for English Literature.

English in Year 9: What will your child study this half term?

This year the English department have moved to mixed ability teaching. Students have settled into their new groups and staff have been impressed by the work, responses and engagement with the lessons. The new groups are having a positive effect on attitudes to learning and the self-esteem of all pupils regardless of ability. Due to the increased demands of GCSE English your child will be studying more challenging texts this year. This term they will be studying a 19th century novel, either Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte or Great Expectations by Charles Dickens this study will be complimented by lessons on related poetry and non-fiction. If you would like to support your child's reading of the text you could consider encouraging them to listen to an audio version, there are many free versions available online.

Your child has just completed a diagnostic test of reading and writing, their class teacher will use the results of these to tests to plans lessons and homework that is tailored to all learners needs. A further assessment will be undertaken in December, this will be a reading paper (Fiction) followed by creative writing (story or description).