

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Northampton School for Boys



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. We hope you had a restful and relaxing half-term break.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the first half of our spring term at Northampton School *for Boys*, and to commend your son for his focus, commitment, and ambition.

As a department, we believe that the study of English empowers and inspires students. Our curriculum centres around challenging and thought-provoking texts encompassing different times and cultures, encouraging students to make connections with a variety of voices and perspectives. Our broad study of the Literary Canon enables students to nurture their appreciation of the history and power of language; students are taught to harness the rich qualities of that language to articulate themselves in a variety of spoken and written contexts, confidently and coherently. The ability to discuss, explore and evaluate concepts and ideas with clarity is central to the academic narrative of which we are proud.

It is our goal that your son will leave us with an understanding and appreciation of the world in which he lives, a range of critical perspectives and the ability to communicate with confidence and flair. Ultimately, we hope your son's experiences in our English classrooms at Northampton School for Boys will resonate with him through the years and foster a life-long love of reading.

With these intentions in mind, we will share a newsletter with you at the start of every term with guidance on how you can best support his studies in English. We will provide details of upcoming modules; topics for discussion; reading lists to complement the texts studied in lessons; and Accelerated Reader updates.

We look forward to working with you and your son during his time at Northampton School *for Boys*.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Morgan-Scott (Learning Leader KS3)
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Our Year 7 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 3 Curriculum is structured chronologically with Y7 focussing on Old in the Autumn term, Middle English in the Spring term and Early-Modern English in the Summer term.

The Spring Term (Jan—April)

Year 7 continue their journey through the development of the English Language, with an exploration of Medieval Literature—pupils will study a range of Arthurian legends, such as ‘Sir Gawain and the Green Knight’, and will study extracts from Geoffrey Chaucer’s ‘The Canterbury Tales’. These literary works will expand pupils’ understanding of the development and progression of the English language, and will further widen their appreciation for the ways in which literature reflect society, norms, and the era in which a text is written. Pupils will continue to develop their analytical voice and style of writing, and will develop this in an exploration of opinion writing too.

Discussion Topics for the Spring Term

1. What was the process of becoming a Knight?
2. What were some of the main promises of the chivalric code?
3. What is so compelling about an adventure story?
4. Why is it important to find radical, powerful women in historical literature?
5. Pilgrimages are still common and popular in our modern world. Discuss their importance and significance.

Wider Reading and Research Opportunities

If your son is interested in learning more about the development of the English language and the sustained popularity of legends and adventure genre, we would recommend he takes a look on Moodle for a number of different wider reading opportunities. Most especially:

1. ‘The Goblet of Fire’ - JK Rowling
2. ‘The Silver Chair’ - CS Lewis
3. ‘Kid Normal’ - Greg James

A reading list of fiction books which focus on similar themes to *Escape from Kraznir* can be found on Moodle under Subjects>English>KS3>ReadingLists.

Accelerated Reader

To complement his studies and support his reading, your son has been enrolled on the Accelerated Reader programme. Mrs Rutherford has been in touch with further details of this programme. We ask that you continue to support your son by encouraging him to read, or reading with him, for at least 20 minutes every day. Reading every day supports academic progress as well as allowing students to develop their vocabulary, concentration, empathy, creativity and wellbeing. Reading will be extraordinarily beneficial to your son in his creative voice as he explores the power and meaning of language.

Star of the Week ★

Many congratulations to those who have received Star of the Week this term! We love to celebrate your success, so keep up the hard work! Each pupil who has been awarded Star of the Week received 5 house points and a cer-

