

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. Your son will also be completing his End of Year exam at the end of this term—he is being prepped for this in detail in all his English lessons. We will be in touch with you again, nearer the time, to confirm the arrangements and important revision information for this.

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

Yours faithfully,

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Our Year 9 Curriculum

In Year 8, students focus on texts from the 18th—21st Century, including Romantic, Gothics and Victorian Literature. In Year 9, your son will study a number of pre-complex 20th—21st Century texts written by writers from around the world and will engineer their creative ideas, and analytical voices ahead of the study of GCSE texts.

The Spring Term (Jan—April)

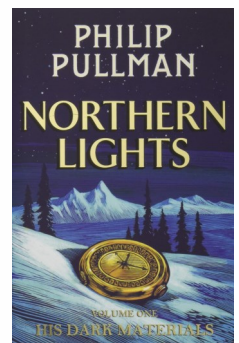
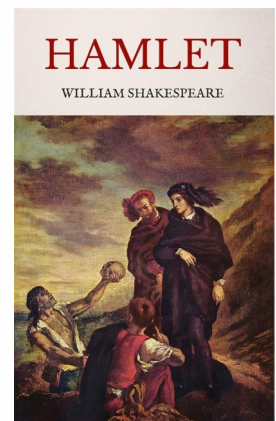
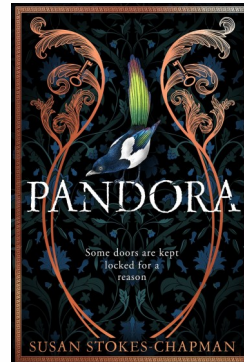
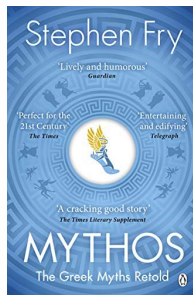
Year 9 will explore two sets of learning this term: the Dystopian genre, and Villains in literature. Both are used, from a range of extracts, from mythology to Shakespeare, King Arthur to 'Northern Lights', to teach key skills for Language Paper 1. Pupils will focus on key comprehension and understanding of the extracts, language analysis and focus on the writer's craft, the structure of texts and the shaping of language, and justification of analytical perspectives.

Discussion topics for the Spring Terms

1. How are characters shaped and developed to create complex and interesting characters?
2. What is so engaging about the battles between right and wrong? Light and dark? Good and evil?
3. To what extent do dystopic texts give us a glimpse into the negative aspects of our world?
4. How are villains used in modern films and television series?
5. How can a writer's craft influence and inspire your own creative writing?

Important vocabulary for this Term

- Evil
- Villain/ villainous
- Sin/ sinful
- Moral/ morality/ immoral/ immorality
- Subjective
- Oracle
- Prophecy/ prophetic
- Hag/ crone
- Poetic justice
- Ambiguous/ ambiguity
- Narrative hook



- Antagonist/ antagonistic
- Regicide
- Usurp/ usurper
- Machiavellian

