

TERMS ONE AND TWO – SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

YEAR 7 NEWSLETTER



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your son to Northampton School for Boys.

As a school, we believe that the study of English empowers and inspires our 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.

As such, our Key Stage 3 Curriculum is structured chronologically with Y7 focussing on Old English (Beowulf) in

the Autumn term, Middle English (Arthurian Legends and Chaucer) in the Spring term and Early-Modern English (Shakespeare) in the Summer term. Students will also develop their writing skills through units centred around adventure writing and travel writing.

Every full term, we will release an English Department newsletter with information on:

- The knowledge and skills being covered in lessons
- Guidance on home learning
- Advice on complementary reading

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant member of staff using the contact details provided to the left.

We wish you and your son the very best wishes for a successful first term at NSB.

The English Team

Contacts:

Key Stage 3 English Learning Leader: Mrs A. Morgan-Scott
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Trust Lead for Accelerated Reader: Mrs J. Rutherford
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WHAT WILL STUDENTS BE LEARNING THIS TERM?

All students will be studying Michael Morpurgo's translation of 'Beowulf' before engaging in their own adventure writing. We will be focusing on the following skills and knowledge:

READING

- Making clear points about a text to build an argument.
- Using references to the text or quotations to support ideas.
- Deducing, inferring, or interpreting information, events, or ideas from texts.
- Explaining and commenting on writers' use of language and literary features.
- Identifying and commenting on the structure and organisation of texts.



WRITING

- Writing imaginative, interesting, and thoughtful texts.
- Producing texts appropriate to task, reader, and purpose.
- Selecting appropriate and effective vocabulary.



HOME LEARNING

Our study of Beowulf begins with an exploration of creation myths from other cultures. To supplement their understanding of creation myths, students will be asked to read a number of creation myths from around the world, including New Zealand, Japan and West Africa.

After reading each creation myth, students will be asked to answer a set of comprehension questions on Microsoft Teams, our home learning platform.

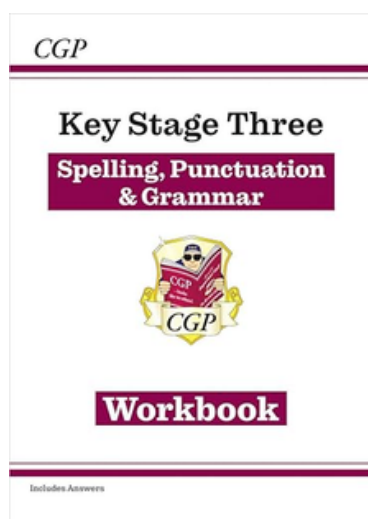


HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD AT HOME?

DISCUSSIONS

One way to support students in recalling their learning and developing their understanding is to discuss their learning with them, asking them questions or asking them to teach you about the topic. By the end of the Autumn term, students should be able to discuss:

1. What is the focus and purpose of a creation story or myth?
2. What is the difference between a myth and a legend?
3. When was Old English spoken and how did it develop through invasions?
4. What is a kenning and how do you create one?
5. What is the difference between a protagonist and an antagonist?



WORKBOOKS

Students who do not feel confident in their writing skills may benefit from skills workbooks. In Year 7, we would recommend CGP's 'KS3 Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar Workbook (with answers)'. This can be purchased online or from any good bookshop.

ENCOURAGING AND DISCUSSING READING

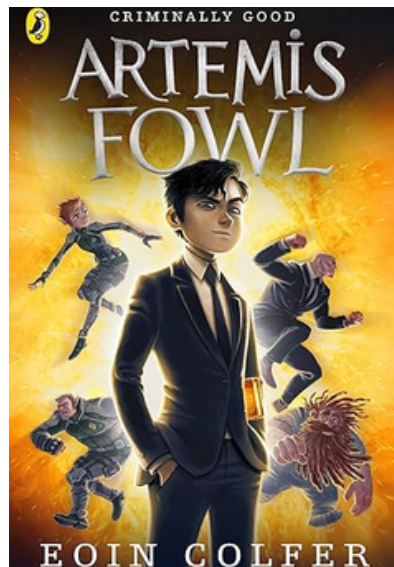
Research shows that students who read frequently make the most academic progress. Whether it's a novel, an audiobook or a newspaper, we advise that students read for a minimum of 20 minutes, 3 times per week.

Students would benefit from reading adventure/fantasy fiction this term. Our top 6 recommendations can be found on the next page.

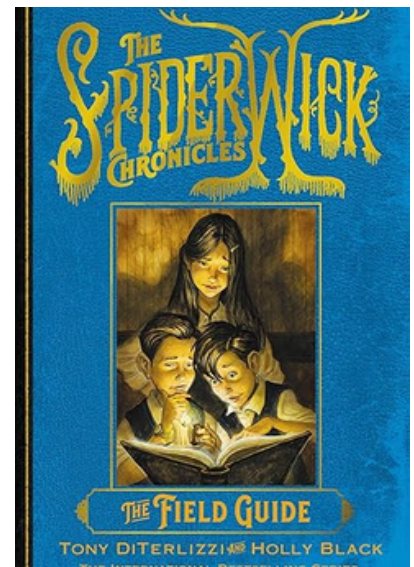
BOOKS TO COMPLIMENT STUDENTS' STUDY OF BEOWULF AND ADVENTURE-FANTASY WRITING



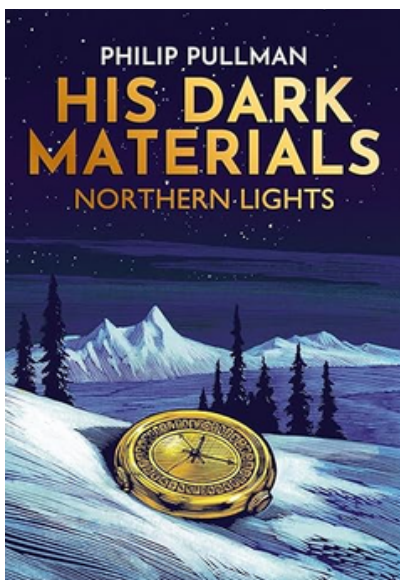
Thirteen-year-old Skandar dreams of bonding with a unicorn and becoming a hero. But as his chance finally arrives, a deadly enemy strikes, stealing the Island's most powerful unicorn. Caught in a whirlwind of danger and secrets, Skandar faces a truth that could change everything—and threaten the world he loves.



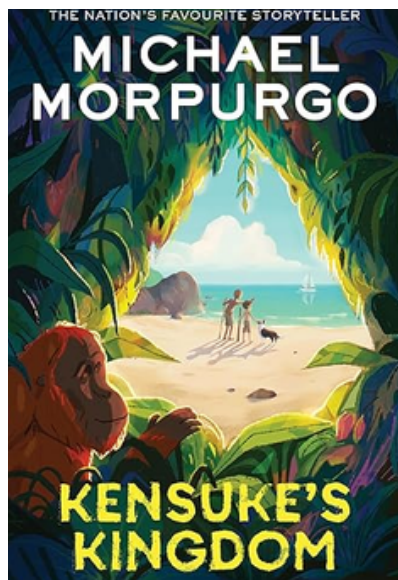
Artemis Fowl, criminal mastermind, has discovered fairies are real—and he wants their gold. But these fairies aren't cute; they're armed, dangerous, and seriously fed up. When Artemis kidnaps Captain Holly Short, he starts a battle he may not win. Fairies don't play nice. Let the misadventure begin.



When the Grace children discover a hidden field guide in their new home, they uncover a secret world of faeries—magical, mysterious, and dangerous. As they delve deeper, the faeries will stop at nothing to protect their secrets. Some truths, it seems, are guarded for a reason...



Lyra Belacqua's carefree life at Jordan College ends when her uncle's arrival plunges her into a dangerous world of stolen children, witches, and armoured bears. Journeying to the frozen North, Lyra faces dark forces and discovers a terrifying truth—only she can decide the fate of her world.



Shipwrecked and alone on a Pacific island, Michael faces hunger, thirst, and despair—until a mysterious figure begins to help him survive. As friendship blossoms between Michael and the reclusive Kensuke, their bond grows deep. But their fragile paradise can't last forever.



Percy Jackson is having a bad week. His life has gone from totally normal to monsters-from-Greek-mythology-randomly-appearing kind of strange. Worse still, the king of the gods thinks Percy has stolen his all-powerful lightning bolt – and it seems making Zeus angry is a very bad idea.