

TERM ONE – SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

YEAR 11 NEWSLETTER



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your son back to Northampton School for Boys. We would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with important information about the work students will be doing in English this term.

As a school, we follow the AQA specification for GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language. These are separate GCSEs that lead to two separate GCSE qualifications. Year 11 students have 4 lessons per week – 2 per qualification – split between two teachers.

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

- The texts and topics being covered in lessons
- Guidance on home learning
- How you can support your child at home

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Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teachers or one of the members of staff listed to the left.

We wish you and your son the very best for a successful first term of the academic year.

The English Team

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING THIS TERM?

In Term 1, students will revise two GCSE Literature set texts first studied at the beginning of the GCSE course: 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare and 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.

Students will revise: plot; characters; themes; writer's methods, including language, form and structure; didactic messages; and context. We will then focus on how to use this knowledge and ambitious vocabulary to write a confident essay response to each text.

Students will be assessed on both texts, with scores from both essays combined to form a grade on their school report.

WHAT HOME LEARNING WILL MY CHILD BE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE?



In order to check and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol', home learning will require students to watch a short revision video on Massolit before completing a corresponding knowledge quiz on Microsoft Teams.

Massolit is an online platform that provides access to short video lectures created by university academics. The selected lectures for Term One are:

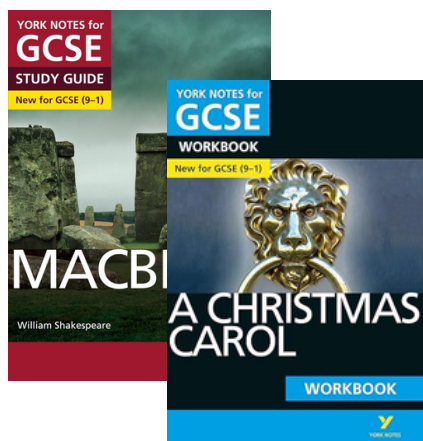
- 'Macbeth' – Dr F. Parker, University of Cambridge
- 'A Christmas Carol' – Dr C. Pittard, University of Portsmouth

Existing NSB students will already have a Massolit account from Year 10, but new students will need to speak to their English teacher to set up an account.

ARE THERE ANY INTERVENTION SESSIONS FOR MY CHILD TO ATTEND?

In this early stage of the academic year, intervention sessions are available by invitation only. This does not place any student at a disadvantage – all the knowledge and skills needed for success are covered in lessons and home learning. We will contact you directly if we feel your child needs to attend lunch intervention sessions in Term One.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD AT HOME?



REVISION GUIDES AND WORKBOOKS

Students may benefit from revision guides and workbooks to supplement their classroom studies and home learning.

With regards to revision guides, we recommend:

- Macbeth York Notes GCSE English Literature Study Guide
- A Christmas Carol York Notes GCSE English Literature Study Guide

Students interested in completing short revision tasks using the information from class notes and revision guides may also benefit from the accompanying workbooks. We recommend:

- Macbeth: York Notes for GCSE (9-1) Workbook
- A Christmas Carol: York Notes for GCSE (9-1) Workbook

QUIZZING AND DISCUSSION

Another way to support students in recalling their learning and developing their understanding is to discuss their learning with them. By the end of the Autumn term, students should be able to define the following vocabulary and explain how it links to the specified set texts.

Macbeth

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 – tragedy | 6 – peripetia |
| 2 – tragic hero | 7 – supernatural |
| 3 – hubris | 8 – catalyst |
| 4 – hamartia | 9 – kingship |
| 5 – tragic downfall | 10 – didacticism |

A Christmas Carol

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – miserly | 6 – parable |
| 2 – antagonistic | 7 – redemption |
| 3 – morality | 8 – transformation |
| 4 – impoverished | 9 – social commentary |
| 5 – oppression | 10 – altruism |

Students will also benefit from practising applying this vocabulary in essay responses. Your child should speak to their English teacher if they would like access to additional mock exam papers.

WATCH A PRODUCTION OF THE PLAY



You can also support your child in consolidating their knowledge of plot, characters and themes by watching a production of each text with them. Multiple theatre adaptations are available through the school's Digital Theatre+ subscription, the login details for which can be found below.

- **URL:** <https://edu.digitaltheatreplus.com>
- **Username:** digitaltheatre_337 **Password:** bigger@8547