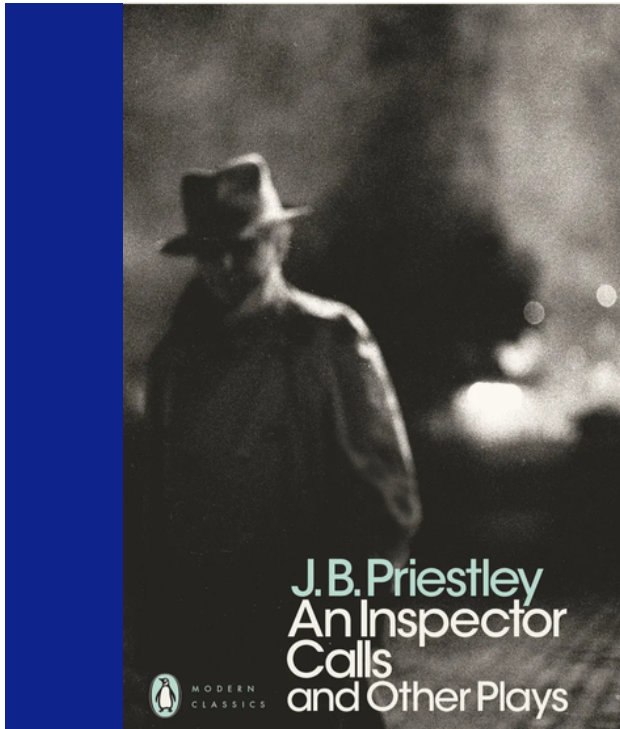


TERMS ONE AND TWO – SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

YEAR 10 NEWSLETTER



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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. Students have 5 lessons per week split between two teachers.

Every full 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

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 for a successful first term of the academic year.

The English Team

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING THIS TERM?

In Terms 1–2, Literature lessons will focus on J. B. Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'. Students will be provided with a copy of the text to use in lessons. They will read and study the text with a focus on: plot; characters; themes; Priestley's methods; and context. Additionally, they will learn how to craft an essay response to this text.

In Term 1, students will also study non-fiction writing skills with a focus on producing newspaper/magazine articles. In Term 2, students will shift their learning to reading skills with a focus on comprehension, inference and deduction, language analysis, and comparing texts. In order to ensure students are able to read unseen texts independently, we recommend they read at home for a minimum of 20 minutes, 3 times per week.

WHAT HOME LEARNING WILL MY CHILD BE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE?



In order to check and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of 'An Inspector Calls', 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. This term, we will be focusing on the lectures created by Professor John McRae of the University of Nottingham.

Students wishing to engage in wider research or revision could also watch the additional lectures on this text by Professor Graham Saunders of the University of Birmingham.

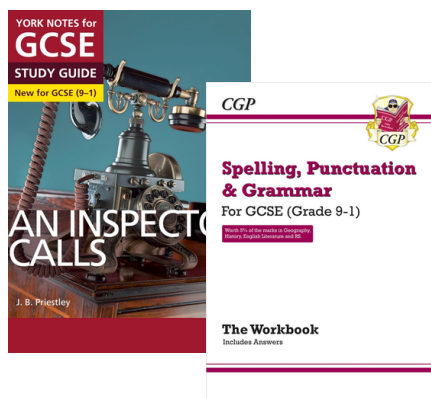
HOW DOES MY CHILD CREATE A MASSOLIT ACCOUNT?

In order to create their free account, students should visit: https://massolit.io/users/sign_in and follow these steps:

- 1) Click SIGN UP in the top-right corner of the page.
- 2) Pick your school or college from the drop-down list.
- 3) Enter your SCHOOL email address and click the SIGN UP button.
- 4) Wait for an activation email to arrive, then click the link in that email.



HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD AT HOME?



WORKBOOKS AND REVISION GUIDES

Students may benefit from revision guides and workbooks to supplement their classroom studies and home learning. For 'An Inspector Calls', we recommend:

- An Inspector Calls York Notes GCSE English Literature Study Guide
- An Inspector Calls York Notes GCSE English Literature Workbook

Students wishing to improve their spelling, punctuation and grammar may also benefit from:

- GCSE Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Workbook (CGP Books)

DISCUSSIONS AND VERBAL QUIZZING

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 discuss:

1. Do you think each character is equally to blame for Eva Smith's suffering?
2. What is the Inspector's role in the play – is he just investigating a death, or is he symbolic of something more?
3. How do the younger and older characters respond differently to the Inspector's message, and what does this suggest about Priestley's views on change and progress?
4. How does the play explore the divide between the upper and working classes? Do you think these issues are still relevant today?
5. How can we apply the following vocabulary to the play?



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|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – capitalism | 6 – oppression |
| 2 – socialism | 7 – redemption |
| 3 – prejudice | 8 – transformation |
| 4 – morality | 9 – mouthpiece |
| 5 – exploitation | 10 – didactic message |

WATCH A PRODUCTION OF THE PLAY

A final way to support students in consolidating their knowledge of plot and characters is to watch a production of the play. The most recent BBC adaptation starring David Thewlis and Miranda Richardson is often available on BBC iPlayer.