

YEAR 9 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your son back to Northampton School for Boys. We hope you had a restful summer break—welcome to Year 9.

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.

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

The English Team

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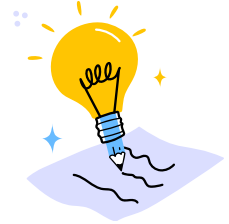
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WHAT WILL STUDENTS BE LEARNING THIS TERM?

All students will be studying short stories from the EMC's 'Diverse Shorts,' 'Noughts and Crosses' adapted by Dominic Cooke from Malorie Blackman's novel, and an exploration of Poetry to Change the World. Second to this, pupils will also begin to explore the Dystopian genre, focusing on reading skills. Within this, pupils will be focusing on:

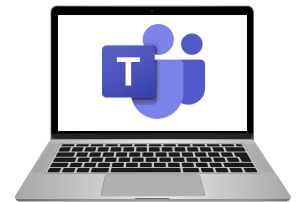
READING

- Making clear points about a text to build an argument.
- Identifying and commenting on writers' purposes and viewpoints.
- Explaining and commenting on writers' use of language and literary features.
- Identifying and commenting on the structure and organisation of texts.
- Linking texts to literary traditions and genre.
- Comparing and contrasting texts.



HOME LEARNING

In Term 1, our study of 'Diverse Shorts' includes the polarised light and darkness of humanity. Leading into 'Noughts and Crosses,' – a bittersweet love story, with echoes of 'Romeo and Juliet,' which explores societal conflict, inferiority and superiority, discrimination, inequality, and prejudice – students will be asked to read a selection of non-fiction stories of hope. After reading each story of hope, students will be asked to answer a set of comprehension questions on Microsoft Teams, our home learning platform. In Term 2, pupils will complete similar Microsoft Teams Quizzes to check their knowledge from their dystopian literature lessons. These will be a beneficial form of consolidation for pupils as they explore a new genre.



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 discrimination?
2. Why do prejudice and inequality prevail in today's world?
3. How can inequality and discrimination be positively challenged?
4. How can works of literature offer a glimpse into the real world, and how can expectations and stereotypes be subverted?
5. What is the plot, and purpose, of 'Noughts and Crosses'?
6. Who was Maya Angelou, and what is the message of 'Still I Rise'?
7. What are the key features of the dystopian genre?
8. Why is dystopic literature so compelling, and how does it echo the real world?



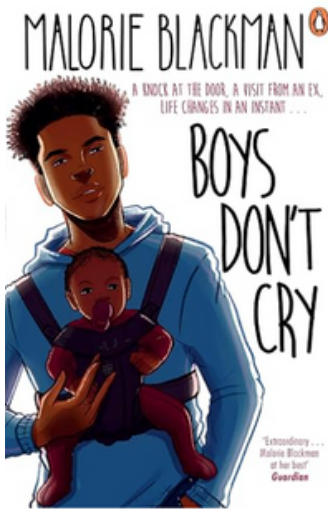
ENCOURAGING AND DISCUSSING READING

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.

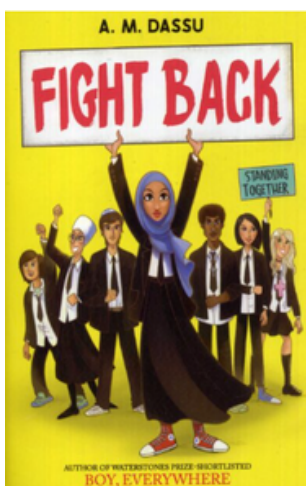
Students would benefit from reading modern drama/romance/conflict/gothic fiction this term.

Our top 6 recommendations can be found on the next page.

BOOKS TO COMPLIMENT STUDENTS' STUDY OF DIVERSE SHORTS, NOUGHTS AND CROSSES, POETRY TO CHANGE THE WORLD, AND DYSTOPIA:



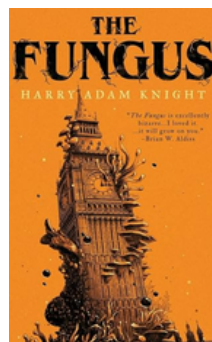
You're waiting for the postman – he's bringing your A level results. University, a career as a journalist – a glittering future lies ahead. But when the doorbell rings it's your old girlfriend; and she's carrying a baby. Your baby. You're happy to look after it, just for an hour or two. But then she doesn't come back – and your future suddenly looks very different.



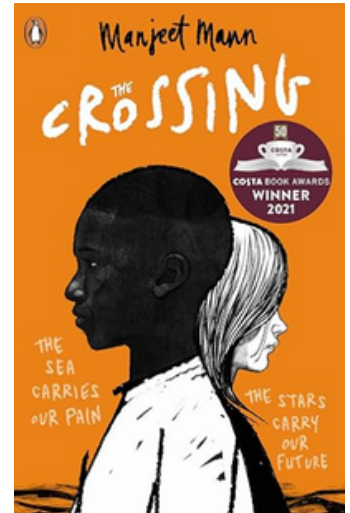
Aaliyah is an ordinary thirteen-year-old living in the Midlands – she's into her books, shoes, K-pop and she is a Muslim. She has always felt at home where she lives ... until a terrorist attack in her area changes everything. When her school bans the hijab and she is intimidated and attacked for her choices, she feels isolated. Together, can Aaliyah and her friends halt the tide of hatred rippling through their community?



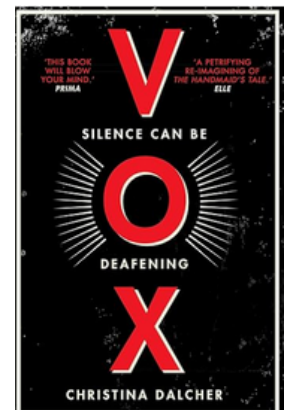
It's Arjan's sixteenth birthday and he's celebrating with his mates – going to see a film and then get a Nando's. He's looking forward to some good banter and wondering what might happen with Jem, who's been looking at him differently these days ... But the night comes to a dramatic and violent end when Arjan is targeted by a group of racist thugs, who single him out due to the colour of his skin and the turban that he wears as a symbol of his commitment to his faith and culture. Is the life of a good friend and beloved son really worth so little?



When a brilliant scientist seeking to solve the problem of world hunger tries to create giant mushrooms through genetic manipulation, what could possibly go wrong? The mutated spores escape the lab and spread across all of England. Toadstools grow to twenty feet tall, and a case of athlete's foot can mean a grisly and horrible death. But those who die quickly are the lucky ones. Those who survive infection by the fungus will be transformed into something unthinkable monstrous.



Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?



Set in an America where half the population has been silenced, VOX is the harrowing, unforgettable story of what one woman will do to protect herself and her daughter. On the day the government decrees that women are no longer allowed to speak more than 100 words daily, Dr. Jean McClellan is in denial—this can't happen here. Not in America. Not to her. For herself, her daughter, and every woman silenced, Jean will reclaim her voice.