



# English At Camp Hill

An introduction to English in Year 9 at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys



# An Introduction to the Department

## **Welcome to Camp Hill.**

Hopefully this short presentation will introduce you to the Department and our philosophy.

## **The Teachers**

Your son will either be taught by:


Mr Hill

Mrs Parmar

Or Miss Buckley

## **Our Philosophy**

Here we believe in encouraging and fostering a love of English through introducing students to a range of Literature. We also see this year, in particular, as crucial for preparing your son for his GCSEs in English Literature and Language.



# The Year 9 Course

In term one students study:

- Genre fiction – where they will either read '**Animal Farm**' George Orwell or '**A Woman in Black**' by Susan Hill. Both these texts have either been taught at GCSE or A'Level
- **Argumentative and persuasive writing** – a scheme developed in conjunction with Camp Hill Girls

In term two students:

- '**Educating Rita**' by Willy Russell – which has been taught at GCSE
- Either '**Romeo and Juliet**' or '**Henry V**'

In term three students:

- Are prepared for their Year 9 examination – which will be a literature examination on their Shakespeare text
- Complete a unit on **Unseen Poetry** – which is an element of their Literature GCSE



# Example activities

- ▶ Students will write creatively
- ▶ They will write literature essays on a range of texts
- ▶ Produce speeches and a newspaper editorial on a topic of their choice

These activities are designed to prepare them for GCSE



# The Skills we are looking for...

You can divide English into three key strands:

- ▶ Speaking and listening
- ▶ Reading
- ▶ Writing

Often of course these skills overlap.



# The Skills...continued

In terms of speaking, we are looking to develop confident speakers, who are able to contribute to both class and group discussions and who are able to listen to others.

In terms of reading, we look to develop students' inference skills – to enable them to read on a deeper level and to begin to think about how writers craft their texts. Furthermore, we focus far more on giving them the skills' necessary for GCSE and make them more aware of the writer's craft than earlier in the Key Stage.

In terms of writing, we look to develop flexible writers, who are able to write both creatively and analytically.



# How we assess?

- ▶ We are in the process of revising the way in which we mark Year 9 in order to bring it closer to the way in which we mark at GCSE
- ▶ Students will undertake one formal assessed piece a half term – often under controlled conditions – these are stored in the student's folder as a record of their work during Key Stage 3
  - Autumn – an analytical essay and a piece of argumentative writing
  - Spring – analytical essays
  - Summer – a literature examination and a presentation on unseen poetry



# Going forward to GCSEs

In Year 10 students will study a wide range of challenging texts. In literature they will study:

- ▶ A text written after 1950 – likely to be ‘Lord of the Flies’
- ▶ A Shakespeare text – likely to be ‘Macbeth’
- ▶ An AQA produced anthology of poetry
- ▶ Unseen poetry
- ▶ A 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel either ‘Frankenstein’ or ‘Great Expectations’

In addition, they will be presented with challenging texts in their English Language examination





# Going forward to GCSEs

We do not believe, as a Department, in entering students early for their GCSE courses or with beginning GCSE courses in Year 9.

However, we recognise that it is important to begin to make students recognise what is expected of them at GCSE – which is why we have chosen challenging texts for our students.

It is important, as you will see, that they read widely! Please see our wider reading list.




# Why students should consider studying English at A'Level?

As a Department we passionately feel that English is a valuable subject to study to A'Level and beyond and Universities agree with us.

- ▶ English is seen as a facilitating subject by top universities.
- ▶ English helps students to develop excellent communication skills.
- ▶ It works well alongside subjects such as History and can provide a good contrast to the sciences and maths – showing a more rounded candidate
- ▶ English graduates do well in a variety of fields including PR, journalism, teaching, research and law
- ▶ You can apply for other careers like accountancy as long as you can prove that you are numerate too



# Activities run by the Department

- In November, all students in Years 7-11 take part in a Public Speaking competition. All students are asked to produce a 3-5 minute speech on a suitably interesting topics. Winners go through to a final, which takes place at the end of the Autumn Term
  - We often run theatre trips – depending on what is on – this year we are running a trip to see ‘Henry V’ on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November
  - Last year Year 9 students took part in a workshop run by the Rep – we will be looking at developing something similar this year
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# How can parents help?

- ▶ Discussing work with students – asking them what they have been asked to do
- ▶ Encouraging students to begin to check through their work for careless errors and to take care over their writing
- ▶ Encouraging their reading – see reading list – the library at Camp Hill is excellent and books always make good presents
- ▶ Encouraging them to read non-fiction, as well as fiction; broadsheet newspapers are always excellent
- ▶ Encouraging students to question what they see and read – this helps to develop their analytical skills
- ▶ Listening to their speeches during public speaking and timing it



# If you need to contact us...

Your first point of contact should always be your son's English teacher. If you wish to email, then it is your child's teacher's name followed by the usual school address e.g.

[another@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:another@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk)

Otherwise you can contact me:

[J.parmar@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:J.parmar@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk) (second in charge)

Or Mr Hill

[n.hill@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:n.hill@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk)

Or alternatively your son's form tutor or Head of Year