

Welcome to Extra English Parents' Information Evening.

Monday 21st November 2016

Why is English so important?

- Enables students to access a range of other subjects.
(comprehension/decoding/communicating/expressing ideas and views).
- Transfer of knowledge and skills.
- Performance in exams – marks available for quality of written expression.
- Self esteem and aspirations.
- World of work.

English intervention classes

What is 'Extra English'?

- An extra three lessons per fortnight of 'English' or an extra six lessons per fortnight.
- Aim – to improve reading and writing skills.
- Delivered by a trained English teacher.
- Focus on literacy skills.
- The Main group has 12 – 16 students per group.
- The Phonics group has up to 6 students per group.
- TA support.
- Year Eight – Miss Arshad and Mrs Howard.
- Year Seven – Miss Arshad and Mr Howell.

What do we focus on?

- Phonics, reading and writing skills.
- Writing – sentence structures, using punctuation accurately and for effect, spelling, using interesting and varied vocabulary.
- Reading – decoding, inferring and deducing. Reading between the lines, looking beyond the obvious.
- Skills that students will be assessed on in Year Seven and Eight and beyond.
- Separate work to schemes of learning in regular English lessons.
- Peer support: Reading Buddies programme.

Schemes of Learning

- Inference training.
- Grammar for Writing.
- Fresh Start phonics programme.
- Literacy activities: spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The structure of our reading and writing lessons

- Silent reading – for 5 minutes, Accelerated Reader books.
- Focus/learning objective.
- Students complete activities on the board and discuss/share ideas.
- Everyone is asked to feed back and respond – inclusion.
- Students will be asked to complete a short piece of writing.
- Often self and peer assessment is used to empower students.

Phonics Lessons

- Speed sounds and vowel graphemes.
- Green words, red words, and vocabulary check.
- Read a Short story.
- Questions to talk about and questions to read and answer.
- Writing task.
- Spelling the green words.

Assessment

- SATs Reading papers and writing assessments.
- Students in the Phonics group are also assessed using the Fresh Start phonics assessment.
- Reading and spelling age tests – twice per year.
- Extra English assessments will feed into English grades from main English teacher.
- Effort/attitude to learning/meeting deadlines will all be reported on by Extra English teacher.
- Regular homework is set – fiction and non-fiction comprehension exercises, spelling and writing.
- Accelerated Reader – programme to assess reading level and reading age. Test twice per year.

How can I support my child with English?

- Being aware of the skills that your child struggles with when reading and writing and reinforcing this at home.
- Supporting your child with homework and helping to reinforce skills that are developed in class.
- Helping your child become independent and to spot errors in their writing.
- Encouraging students to read at home – ask them about their book, more probing questions so that students are reading between the lines.