

***ENGLISH LANGUAGE A - LEVEL***

Dear Year 11 Students,

If you are thinking about studying English Language or enjoyed studying it at GCSE (where it ended too soon) we wanted to enable you keep up your studies in preparation for A Level. Our goals in the Sixth Form in the English Faculty are to provide an engaging, enriching and academic curriculum for you, and we aim for you to become lively, focused and independent learners. We hope that during the time that you are spending at home over the next few weeks, you can begin to think of yourself as an A Level English Language student, and also begin to develop your academic progress in English.

I am attaching a list of tasks that we would like you to get on with over the coming weeks. Complete the work at your own pace and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me or your Year 11 English teacher.

We are pleased to be supporting your continued study of English Langugae and welcoming you to English A-Level.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Sykes

 (In Charge of Key Stage 5 English)

***ENGLISH LANGUAGE A-Level: Foundation Tasks***

***Introduction:***

Language is important for so many reasons – we use language to communicate, to share, to express ourselves, to establish rules and explore ideas. But language is so much more than that. Language has been used over time to form representations of identity. Language is a means of constructing ourselves and the societies that we live in. The way that language is used can actually affect the way that we see things, and the way that we as a society function. And that is the essence of the English Language course.

Below is a list of resources that we would like you to access and read. There is a mixture of blog posts, articles, academic articles, articles with tasks, podcasts, and clips. They are all about English Language and how it is used, how it has changed over time, how it differs across gender, region and social class, and how it is used to represent aspects of our society.

Please work your way through the resources and then complete the task that I have set underneath.

***Resources:***

Things to Read:

* US to UK word of the year – ‘gotten’

<https://separatedbyacommonlanguage.blogspot.com/2020/01/2019-us-to-uk-word-of-year-gotten.html>

* A brief history of the English Language

<https://linguisticus.wordpress.com/a-brief-history-of-the-english-language/>

* Grammararium – Things and Ideas: Nouns

<https://grammararium.wordpress.com/things-and-ideas-nouns/>

* Listen to different accents and dialects here –

<https://www.dialectsarchive.com/england>

* Grammatical change in the English Language

<https://www.bl.uk/british-accents-and-dialects/articles/grammatical-change-in-the-english-language>

* Lexical change in the English Language

<https://www.bl.uk/british-accents-and-dialects/articles/lexical-change-in-the-english-language>

* Explore Samuel Johnsons’ dictionary of the English Language

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/samuel-johnsons-a-dictionary-of-the-english-language-1755>

Interactive timeline to explore the evolution of the English Language

* <http://www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/evolvingenglish/accessvers/index.html>

The Guardian Long Read

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/aug/15/why-its-time-to-stop-worrying-about-the-decline-of-the-english-language>

* Gender Identity and Language

<https://www.refinery29.com/en-gb/gender-identity-terms>

* Language and social media

<https://englishlive.ef.com/blog/english-in-the-real-world/has-social-media-changed-the-way-we-speak-and-write-english/>

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/gabriellauwc/7-impacts-social-media-has-on-our-language-skills-20je6>

* Meghan’s accent:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47148541?ns_source=facebook&ns_campaign=bbcnews&ns_mchannel=social&ocid=socialflow_facebook&fbclid=IwAR3bBKF85Yl_zmfkeCAja9c10r7AaaJE42l8qqknwlYf2_qeemIrFhiPY6I&fbclid=IwAR2aQ4DZlwzYoXLGfB6-mwuuFAUPQuVq8WSfSqzJzIEbElf6nMJEuA0Worc>

* Why do we change the way we speak?

<https://www.altalang.com/beyond-words/change-way-we-speak-depending-speaking/>

Things to Watch:

* BBC IDEAS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vgo-hE0D_g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XINQvKbqzq0>

* TED TALKS

<https://www.ted.com/talks/erin_mckean_go_ahead_make_up_new_words#t-10000>

<https://www.ted.com/talks/james_geary_metaphorically_speaking>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKK7wGAYP6k>

Things to Listen to:

* BBC SOUNDS

This is an app that you need to download onto your phone.

Search for and listen to the following podcasts:

* **Word of Mouth**

Episodes:

Communicating Climate Change (14thJan 2020)

Vikings (23 July 2019)

Biscuit Names (23 April 2019)

Are we all speaking football ( 26 Sept 2017)

Any others that you think look interesting

* **The Listening Project**

Conversations recorded to offer a snapshot of language and communication in contemporary Britain. Choose two episodes to listen to.

***Tasks:***

1. From the list of resources above, find one or two that you are really interested in. Make a list of the main ideas, concepts and theories that you think are relevant in that resource.

Then, using the resource as a starting point, complete your own **research project** about the specific area of English Language that you have chosen.

The project could include:

* A summary of the main points in the original resource.
* Other ideas about this aspect of language that you have found in your own research online.
* Personal experiences of language use (spoken, electronic or written)
* Screen shots or transcripts of how you use language.

You can format the project in any way you choose – Powerpoint/ word/ you could make your own podcast or video??!!

1. Create your own **language map.**
* Who and what influences the way that you use language? You could complete a section on family/friends/school/TV/Social Media… Do you alter the way that you use language depending on who you are with? Does anyone in your life speak another language? Is there language that you use that is unique to a certain situation?
* You could set this out as a mind map, a powerpoint or any other way that you choose.