

Little Heath School Sixth Form

Year 12 Induction Evening for Parents 2016

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| English Language |

Welcome to the department

The Year 12 teaching pairs are as follows:

Mrs Huntington jhuntington@littleheath.org.uk

Mrs Smith asmith@littleheath.org.uk

Mr Scammell tscammell@littleheath.org.uk

Mr Hand rhand@littleheath.org.uk

Students have eight lessons per fortnight and it is important that they use their personal study periods wisely to read around the subject and go through their notes.

What the course involves

In Year 12, students will sit two exams, both 1.5 hours long. They will learn a wide range of linguistic terminology and how to apply this to a range of different spoken, written and electronic texts. In addition, they will study the language habits and conventions of a variety of different people, including social, regional and occupational groups and gender.

These topics are extended in Year 13 to include ethnic varieties of English, how language changes over time and how children aquire language. There are two, 2.5 hour exams, each worth 40% of the total A Level exam.

Students also a 3500 word Non Exam Assessment (formerly known as coursework) for the remaining 20% of the full A Level. This will include an independent investigation into an aspect of English, and the production of a media text with an evaluation of its success.

Please refer to LHS Sixth Form website for more details.

Key to success at A Level

Keeping on top of the new terminology is vital for success in English Language. Students are expected to spend between 3 and 4 hours a week outside lessons on their English, so there is plenty of time for them to be re-reading and making sure notes are up to date and clear. They can also practise their analytical skills by selecting a variety of different texts from newspapers, magazines or the internet and attempting to identify the various word classes they have been learning about and analysing the effects they have.

Using the emagazine archive is a good way to find accessible articles on a huge range of English Language topics. The login and password are currently: **missmr littleheath**. Refer also to your PLCs and ensure that you are clear on the different skills you will be tested on. We would also encourage students to follow the departmental Twitter account: @heathenenglish for links to a variety of language sites and stories.

What parents can do to help

Because English Language is such a broad and varied topic, parents can be an enormous help to their children’s studies by discussing language issues with them, including examples of good and bad English you see (such as whether or not I should have started this sentence with ‘because’?) as well as attitudes to different styles and forms of language. Reminiscing about what language was like in ‘the old days’ and how it has changed for the worse(?) is an entirely legitimate way of encouraging your children to evaluate language issues. Just be prepared for them to get better at arguing about it as the course progresses. Encouraging them to develop ‘cultural capital’ by reading newspapers and websites is also very useful, as the more varieties of texts they are familiar with, the easier they will find the exam. Please be tolerant if they start analysing everything you say and how you say it, it proves they’re learning something!

Important deadlines

The N.E.A. will be started after the AS exam period and we would expect students to be working on this over the summer between Years 12 and 13.