



Dear Parent/Guardian

The CCS English Department warmly welcomes your child to this new academic year. We want to foster an ethos of excellence and we know how enthusiastic our parents are to support from home. Therefore, we recommend the following strategies and we would be delighted if you could discuss these with your child and implement them where possible.

All students:

- 30 minutes reading outside of school every day. Every student should have a reading book and all students will be given a recommended reading list. Experience tells us that regular reading of challenging texts greatly improves student attainment in English.
- Focus on non-fiction: pupils need to be reading website articles, newspapers and journals on a range of different topics alongside their fiction reading.
- Active discussions between parents and students about their reading, world events and topics they find interesting. Students need to be able to express their informed opinions on a range of topics. Regular conversations with adults also give pupils opportunities to improve their vocabulary.
- Supporting students with their organisation of homework and encouraging them to complete work of a high standard.
- Knowledge Organisers are provided to students for each unit and spelling lists at various points throughout the year. Self-quizzing of this information (with parental support) would be very beneficial.

GCSE pupils

- CGP revision guides are an invaluable tool that allow pupils to revise regularly at home. Again, having frequent discussions with pupils and reading the guides together is a very effective tool.
- GCSE Pod is another resource available to all KS4 pupils and the podcasts provide a perfect opportunity to revise throughout the year. Listening to the podcasts and discussing them with pupils again adds to their revision.

Thank you in advance for all your help.

For the first unit this year students will be studying:

Year 7 – Free! By David Grant.

Year 8 – Room 13 by David Swindells.

Year 9 – Blood Brothers by Willy Russell or Journey's End by R.C. Sheriff.

Year 10 – An Inspector Calls by J.B Priestley.

Year 11 – Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.

All students will also be studying a range of key English Language skills alongside their exploration of the literature texts.

Thank you

Sent on behalf of the English Department.