

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Northampton School for Boys



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your son back to Northampton School for Boys. We hope you had a restful summer break.

As a department, we believe that the study of English empowers and inspires students. Our curriculum centres around challenging and thought-provoking texts encompassing different times and cultures, encouraging students to make connections with a variety of voices and perspectives. Our broad study of the Literary Canon enables students to nurture their appreciation of the history and power of language; students are taught to harness the rich qualities of that language to articulate themselves in a variety of spoken and written contexts, confidently and coherently. The ability to discuss, explore and evaluate concepts and ideas with clarity is central to the academic narrative of which we are proud.

It is our goal that your son will leave us with an understanding and appreciation of the world in which he lives, a range of critical perspectives and the ability to communicate with confidence and flair. Ultimately, we hope your son's experiences in our English classrooms at Northampton School for Boys will resonate with him through the years and foster a life-long love of reading.

With these intentions in mind, we will share a newsletter with you at the start of every term with guidance on how you can best support his studies in English. We will provide details of upcoming modules; topics for discussion; reading lists to complement the texts studied in lessons; and Accelerated Reader updates.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your son during his time at Northampton School for Boys.

Yours faithfully,

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Our Year 8 Curriculum

In Year 7, your son studied Old, Middle and Early-Modern English. This year, he will focus on texts from the 18th-21st Century. In the Autumn term, he will focus on the theme of Remembrance. He will then explore Romantic, Gothic and Victorian Literature in the Spring term and Mitch Johnson's 'Kick' in the Summer term.

The Autumn Term (Sept—Dec)

Year 8 continue their curriculum journey with a celebration of Remembrance.

Discussion Topics for the Autumn Term

1. What is propaganda and how was it used in the First World War?
2. What was the difference between the propaganda in the media and the reality of life in the trenches?
2. How did Wilfred Owen's poetry challenge the propaganda about the war?
3. What themes are explored in 'Private Peaceful'?
4. What wider systemic issues led to Charlie Peaceful's death?
5. What methods do writers use to create vivid characters and settings?

Wider Reading and Research Opportunities

If your son is interested in learning more about Remembrance and World Wars 1 and 2, we recommend the British Legion's website—www.britishlegion.org.uk—and the following Horrible History publications:

1. 'Frightful First World War'
2. 'Woeful Second World War'

We have also provided you and your son with an extensive reading list which supports and enhances study of the war literature —this includes texts we have in the school library, and beyond. This is available to you on our school website in the English Department section: [Northampton School for Boys - English \(nsb.northants.sch.uk\)](http://Northampton School for Boys - English (nsb.northants.sch.uk))

Accelerated Reader

To complement his studies and support his reading, your son will be enrolled on the Accelerated Reader programme. Mrs Rutherford will contact you with further details of this program shortly. In order to support this programme, your son will have one lesson a week in the school library. We ask that you support your son by encouraging him to read, or reading with him, for at least 20 minutes every day. Reading every day supports academic progress as well as allowing students to develop their vocabulary, concentration, empathy, creativity and wellbeing.

Star of the Week

Our English teachers reward positive behaviour in Years 7 and 8 by choosing a 'Star of the Week'. Our Stars are rewarded with a certificate, a class book sticker, contact home, and entry into a grand draw for a Commendation at the end of each term. We look forward to celebrating with your son!

