



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—welcome to Year 9.

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 9 Curriculum

In Year 8, students focus on texts from the 18th—21st Century, including Romantic, Gothics and Victorian Literature. In Year 9, your son will study a number of the 20th—21st Century texts written by writers from around the world.

The Autumn Term (October—December)

Year 9 continue to build on their exploration of Diverse Shorts and Poetry with the following areas of literary and linguistic study: Diverse Shorts, Unseen Poetry, Youth Speaks Out, and Rhetoric. Pupils will reimagine the texts they have studied this year from an analytical perspective, and will deepen understanding through creative, rhetorical writing.

Discussion topics for the Autumn Terms

1. How is language used to persuade and convince?
2. How is language used in media to inform and guide a reader?
3. What is the significance of the Black Lives Matter movement today?
4. How can we respond to the refugee crisis in a compassionate manner?
5. In what ways can literature and creative writing change and challenge perceptions?

Important vocabulary for this Term

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|-----------|------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Diversity | Culture | Identity | Racism | Discrimination |
| Privilege | Oppression | Marginalisation | Displacement | Alienation |
| Refugee | Tolerance | Community | Patriotism | Equality |

Wider Reading Opportunities

Lit in Colour was created in 2020 by Penguin Books UK and race equality think tank, The Runnymede Trust. Penguin's mission is 'we make books for everyone, because a book can change anyone'. Through Lit in Colour, they aim to support school in the UK to make the teaching and learning of English Literature more inclusive. This includes commissioning research to better understand barriers and possible solutions, as well as providing reading lists for all key stages. You and your son can access their reading lists on their website—<https://litincolour.penguin.co.uk>—or on our school website at the following address: [Northampton School for Boys - English \(nsb.northants.sch.uk\)](http://Northampton School for Boys - English (nsb.northants.sch.uk)) We have recently stocked out school library with more texts from this reading list and we hope students will make sure to pay Mrs Rutherford and Mrs Thomson a visit in the coming weeks.

