

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Northampton School for Boys



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back... we hope you had a lovely May half-term!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the Autumn and Spring terms at Northampton School *for Boys*, and to commend your son for his focus, commitment, and ambition as we enter our final term this summer.

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. Pupils in Year 7 are now turning to the Bard himself... Shakespeare and his comedy play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

With End of Year exams completed for Year 7, pupils are entering an exciting and engaging study of Shakespeare's comedy, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This will include a range of translating activities, dramatic readings, alternative interpretations, and creative transformations of pupils' understanding. We do hope that your son will enjoy this exploration of the wonders and depth of Shakespearean language!

We look forward to working with you and your son during summer term at Northampton School for Boys.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'amorgan-scott'.

Mrs Morgan-Scott (Learning Leader KS3)
amorgan-scott@nsbtrust.school

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMorrell'.

Mrs Claire Morrell (Curriculum Team Leader)
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Our Year 7 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 3 Curriculum is structured chronologically with Y7 focussing on Old in the Autumn term, Middle English in the Spring term and Early-Modern English in the Summer term.

The Summer Term (April—July)

Year 7 continue their journey through the development of the English Language, with an exploration of Shakespearean literature in their study of the magical, mystical comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The infamous 'play-within-a-play' will be studied in traditional Shakespearean text, with a focus on plot development, structural changes, transitions in character, and translation of Jacobean language into a modern setting. This will be an exciting and creative exploration of a dramatic work, and will closely bring to life language and the dramatic arts/theatre.

Discussion Topics for the Summer Term

1. How is Shakespeare still relevant in today's world?
2. How are human relationships complex and diverse?
3. How is comedy crafted, and how has comedy changed over time?
4. How should power be distributed in the world?
5. What is the power and significance of magic and the imagination?
6. How can a narrative be adapted for stage and screen?
7. To what extent is Shakespearean language accessible and understandable?
8. What is the power of physical theatre?
9. How has slapstick developed over time?
10. How can plot twists and surprises engage a reader / audience?

Wider Reading and Research Opportunities

If your son is interested in learning more about the development of the English language and the sustained popularity of legends and adventure genre, we would recommend he takes a look on Moodle for a number of different wider reading opportunities. He could also visit the Library where we have a number of complementary texts!

Accelerated Reader

To complement his studies and support his reading, your son has been enrolled on the Accelerated Reader programme. Mrs Rutherford has been in touch with further details of this programme. We ask that you continue to support your son by encouraging him to read, or reading with him, for at least 20 minutes every day.

Summer Reading Challenge

This summer, we are again having a Summer Reading Challenge! This is to support all pupils in continuing to read over the summer holidays, and to engage with a range of texts with the guidance of you at home, for rewards in school at the start of the next academic year. There are 12 challenges for pupils to engage with and when one is complete, please sign their box. When they return to school, they are encouraged to give their signed sheet to their English teacher who will award 5 house points for every challenge they have completed... 60 house points up for grabs! We would be most grateful for your support with this reading initiative.

