

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. 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.

With Year 8 End of Year Exams completed, pupils are now delving deeper into the world of child poverty, child exploitation, and child workers in Indonesia through form pupil, Mitch Johnson's novel, 'Kick'. Through the lens of football... which is so popular with pupils... your son will further explore the real world implications of the poverty gap, footballers' pay, fast fashion, and inequality. This will be challenging at times, but will prepare pupils well ahead of their study of Diverse Shorts and Diverse Poetry in the opening terms of Year 9.

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 that reads "amorgan-scott". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Mrs Morgan-Scott (Learning Leader KS3)
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "cmorrell". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Mrs Claire Morrell (Curriculum Team Leader)
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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 Summer Term (April-July)

Year 8 continue their curriculum journey—having explored the Romantic era, the power of Gothic literature, and the investigatory world of Conan Doyle's 'Sherlock Holmes'. Pupils are now transported from the late nineteenth century to the twenty-first century with former pupil, Mitch Johnson's novel, 'Kick'. Having explored the turn of the twentieth Century with Morpurgo's 'Private Peaceful', we are jumping forward to a relevant, engaging, and widespread global text. 'Kick' tells the story of Budi, a child in Indonesia, who is football mad; it depicts the hardships of poverty, the challenges of inequality, and the power of corruption.

Discussion Topics for the Summer Term

1. Why are there different levels of development in the world?
2. How is fast-fashion harmful?
3. To what extent is poverty an issue which we can all help tackle?
4. How can we productively and usefully challenge inequality and corruption in our world?
5. Describe life in Indonesia, and use your empathy skills to depict their challenges, realities, and fears.

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 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.

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.

