



BEVERLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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Dear Parent/Guardian

We are writing to you to tell you about the tutor reading programme that is now in its third year of evolution, which all students take part in during tutor time. It is designed to challenge students' reading and thinking beyond what they may choose to read themselves independently, or what they may study and analyse in English lessons which is an altogether different discipline. We have also included some information on the GCSE English courses and the tutor led discussion articles. Our wish is to teach pupils how to think for themselves so that they can go into the wider world with confidence in their beliefs and be able to support their views and opinions with self-assurance and with valid reasoning and analysis. And to consider the importance of their moral and ethical perspectives and the impact on others.

Tutor-led reading aloud

Students benefit from dedicated sessions of fifteen minutes reading twice a week, allowing for half an hour of tutor-led reading time per week outside of lesson time. This time is used for the tutor to model reading aloud to students, but it is also used to set a calm and purposeful tone to the day and allows the tutor and tutees to bond by sharing stories together. As a school, we prioritise this time to provide students with further opportunity to experience new texts, contextualise new vocabulary and be exposed to a range of cultural references that they will continue to value in later life.

In Year 10 tutor time, the tutor will read some of the following texts to their tutor group:

The Turn of the Screw by Henry James
Breakfast at Tiffany's by Truman Capote
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger
The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
The Time Machine by H. G. Wells
Twenty-One Stories by Graham Greene
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Your child will study a selection of the above on rotation. An excellent way to further support your child's GCSE study would be to borrow the books she doesn't have the opportunity to read from the local library.



Discussion articles

We have also incorporated non-fiction texts into our tutor programme to enhance students' knowledge of current world issues and to encourage them to be interesting and interested well-rounded individuals who can root their opinions in what they have read. Students are emailed an article every week and are expected to read the article before the discussion in tutor time. It is also published on the school website for parents to access. It is of vital importance that pupils engage with the discussion articles on a weekly basis, not only to prepare them for the unseen non-fiction English Language Paper 2, but also to build knowledge of the wider world that is essential for all GCSE subjects. We strongly advise all students to download a news app or buy a quality broadsheet and discuss current world events at home and with their peers.

GCSE English Language and Literature – essential information

Closed book exams and interleaving revision: what you can do

There will never be a time when a pupil hasn't got English work to do. The reading of 'An Inspector Calls', the reading of poems from the poetry anthology, the reading of the literary heritage novel and the reading of Shakespeare is ongoing. Pupils must know the plot well, they must know the characters well, they must have some quotations under their belt that are platforms for discussion on the characters, the plot, the themes of the texts, the era, gender expectations, class demarcation and so on. Although pupils will be taught the texts and exam techniques throughout the two years, the ongoing independent study and revision will ensure that pupils know the texts well and they will be able to discuss confidently in her exams. Encourage the discussion of texts pupils are reading or download the audiobook to listen to the text.

Additional support

We cannot stress enough that revisiting the texts with detailed independent study is the best strategy your child can adopt in preparing for her Literature exam. The CGP revision guides and BBC Bitesize may be useful in supporting her with this, but nothing compensates for knowledge of the text. The skills the pupils learn in their study of literature are transferred to the study of the English language papers. As we have five lessons of English per week at KS4 and pupils are encouraged to seek help from their teachers throughout the two years, when required, revision lessons are not offered in Year 11.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Head of English or your child's English teacher if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. V Koczy
Head of English

Miss. C Butlin
Literacy Co-ordinator and Super-curricular Lead

