



Year 8 Newsletter and Home Learning Spring Term 1

This half term, we will be reading *The Hunger Games*. Through the novel and film, we explore the values of Compassion and Friendship focussing on the loss of Katniss' friend and ally, Rue.

Many of you will remember students reading the novel *Trash* last year. The author, Andy Mulligan, also writes screen-plays; he is coming to talk to the students about his screen-play writing to support them and inspire them with their own writing.

Writing Outcomes	Reading Outcomes
Can I write a screen play? Can I write an essay? How are film techniques used to explore the relationship between Katniss and Rue in the scene 'Rue's farewell'?	Can I make comments to compare structure between texts? Can I compare writers' methods between texts? How does the writer create an effect? (Tension) How does a writer create an image?

Reading Journals

Weekly reading expectations are included in the reading journals. These are guides only; we recognise that children will read at different rates. The books are used in lessons please ensure they are brought in on a daily basis. Replacement Reading Journals are available to download from our website.

Reading for Pleasure

We have a KS3 fiction library with a huge range of fiction and non-fiction books. Students have a weekly opportunity to borrow books, read together and share ideas. This half term, we will be encouraging pupils to read play-scripts to support their understanding of this text type. Academically successful students read for a minimum of twenty minutes daily. Please remember to sign your child's reading bookmark so that it can be included in the House Reading Challenge.

Home Learning Support

We understand that every student has different needs, especially when working at home. Class teachers encourage the completion of home learning to the best of a student's ability. There is a weekly opportunity to share learning and of course everything completed underpins work in class. Teachers will tell students which day of the week they need to be prepared for; students need to write due dates in their ROAs. Merits will be awarded for effort.

Please offer your child encouragement and support; please discuss with them the right place and time for home learning to be completed.

Every student is provided with a **Linking Literacy Passport** at the appropriate level. These booklets contain subject terminology; reading and writing targets and ideas to support learning.

At school there are a number of home learning clubs and Learning Surgery is held every Monday lunchtime (just turn up). Contact heads of year for further details.

Challenge Home Learning

Teachers will ask: What have you learned?

Commit to learn something new

Investigate and learn facts, skills, concepts, vocabulary and spellings

Form good habits

Become an independent learner

Learn how to get 'unstuck'

Students have a list of vocabulary/spellings to learn each week

Students are asked to spend a little time focussing on something they need to memorize or practise.

This might be guided by the teacher or have a whole class focus.

1) This half term, we will be revising the complex world of punctuation.

Our focus will be on commas, colons, semicolons and the punctuation rules for direct speech.

2) Also, students need to learn the different sentence types

A **simple** sentence has a subject and only one verb: The girl sprinted after the tiger.

A **compound** sentence is formed when you join two main clauses with a coordinating conjunction: I like bananas and I like grapes.

A **complex** sentence is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause with a subordinating conjunction: The dog barked because I knocked on the door.

