



Year 8 Newsletter and Home Learning Summer Term 1

This half term, we are exploring William Shakespeare's **The Tempest**. Students will be finding out how Shakespeare created the drama of a storm and considering the importance of the island setting, which was previously taught in the novel *Treasure Island*. The Christian Value of forgiveness is explored throughout. Our main focus (and reading assessment piece) is on the changing relationship between Prospero and Ariel.

Writing Outcomes	Reading Outcomes
Can I write a letter? Can I write a speech? Can I write an essay? Using these scenes...What do we know about the relationship between Prospero and Ariel?	Can I evaluate a text? Can I make comments about the characters in the text? Can I make comments about the setting in the text? Can I make comments about the themes in the text?

Reading Journals

It is important that students bring these in every day as they are used in classwork as well as home learning. Students will be given a cool, medium or hot chilli journal to support their learning. It is important that they keep up-to-date as work at home is leading into the final assessment piece.

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 explore play scripts and consider stories where setting plays a major part. 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
Engage 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.

This half term we are going to focus on the completion of the reading journal.