

How Can I Support my Child in English?

A LCHS Parents' Guide

Why is English important?

- A good English GCSE is required for most level 3 courses
- Most universities and employers will demand GCSE English, often at Grade 5 and above
- It is *much* easier to do now rather than retaking it next year or doing it later in life
- English teaches you vital life skills that give you confidence and an ability to communicate

Getting the basics right

- ✓ Develop a regular routine for completing homework. Make sure there is a place free from distractions to work in, preferably with a desk/table to write on.
- ✓ Check their planner and books to see if they are completing homework tasks.
- ✓ Ensure they value every minute of every lesson and make the most of their limited remaining time here.
- ✓ If they have been absent for any reason, check that they have spoken to the teacher to find out what they missed and how to catch up.
- ✓ Never say "I was never any good at English" as this can lead them to believe they may never be any good and to give up trying.
- ✓ Be aware of your child's areas for development with SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). Test them on the spellings they keep getting wrong.

Talking and Working Together

- Talk to your child about the texts they're studying. Ask them why a certain character is important, or their function in the play or book.
- Talk to them about current affairs. Discuss the news on TV. Encourage them to express their opinions and to explain them clearly.
- Talk about the meanings of unfamiliar words you come across in books, films and TV programmes.
- Do an exam paper yourself! It'll give you a good idea of just what your child is facing. Get your child to mark it and to teach you how to do it better.

Exam Details!

GCSE English Language

Component 1: 6 th June 2017			1 hour 45 minutes	(40% of total grade)
Section A:	Reading comprehension of one 20th century fiction extract.			40 marks
Section B:	One writing task: short story. 4 options available.			40 marks
Component 2: 12 th JUNE 2017			2 hours	(60% of total grade)
Section A:	Reading comprehension of two non-fiction texts, one 21 st century and one 19 th century.			40 marks
Section B:	Two writing tasks: transactional / persuasive			40 marks
Component 3:			Non-examination	(Not weighted)
One presentation / speech, including responses to questions and feedback.				

GCSE English Literature

Component 1: 22 nd May 2017			2 hours	(40% of total grade)
Shakespeare and Poetry				
Section A:	Romeo and Juliet: one extract based question and one essay question.			40 marks
Section B:	Poetry from 1789 to the present day (anthology): 2 questions.			40 marks
Component 2: 26 th May 2017			2 hours and 30 mins	(60 % of total grade)
<i>An Inspector Calls/Lord of the Flies</i> (only one) <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> and unseen poetry				
Section A: (20%)	'An Inspector Calls' / 'Lord of the flies': One question which starts with an extract and asks students to also write about the entire text. (45 mins)			40 marks
Section B: (20%)	19 th Century Prose text: 'Jekyll and Hyde' One question which starts with an extract and asks students to also write about the entire text. (45 mins)			40 marks
Section C: (20%)	Unseen Poetry: two questions. One requires a response to a previously unseen poem, the other requires students to compare the poem with another unseen poem. (1 hour)			40 marks

How to revise

Many teachers are holding extra sessions in lunch times and after school. Does your child know about them? Have they asked?! These are a great starting point for revision.

Some people say “You can’t revise for English”. These people are wrong! There is so much to revise and lots that your child should be doing. Here are lots of practical ideas for the students:

- **Get organised!** You have lots of stuff in your books and folders. Find it. Sort it. And use it. Remember to **bring your books/folder to every English lesson**, along with the book you are studying.
- **Read the books!** If you already have, that’s great. Read them again!
- **Know what is going on.** Be clear on what you are assessed on for each part of the course. Know your Assessment Objectives – check with your teacher if you are unsure.
- **Make notes.** Produce mind maps/summaries of different parts of the text / themes / characters you are studying.
- **Do some practice questions!** Time yourself and answer questions from past exam papers.
- **Learn lots of short quotes.** Don’t forget you can’t take your books into the exam. Get some cue cards-write 5 key quotes for each theme and each character on them and learn them! On the bus, in the car, just before bed...you get the idea. Stick them in your bag and take them with you, everywhere you go! Some quotation cards have been provided in year 11 assemblies. Look out for displays and posters up round school – even the toilets!
- **Plan some literature essays.** Time yourself. Spend 5 minutes writing down and then organising your ideas for different questions.
- **Read some poems.** Think about your response to them and what you might write about them.
- **Read lots of examples of text types you might get in the writing exam.** Pick up leaflets, newspapers, magazines and letters. Look at how they are set out and think about how you can use the ideas in your own writing. Read the Sunday papers. Read about things you’re interested in (music, films, sport, fashion etc.) on The Telegraph, Independent and The Guardian newspaper websites. They’re free!
- **Get into a routine.** It helps to have a timetable and stick to it. Leave the iPad, TV and Xbox/PS4 as a reward. Maybe don’t revise in the same room as that technology!