

Welcome to the Parent Zone area of the English Department Website!

Below you will find some information regarding the English curriculum, as well as suggestions for how pupils may supplement their learning in class with activities undertaken at home. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms Cameron - the Principal Teacher of English – either by telephone or at the email address noted below.

gcameron@greenfaulds.n-lanark.sch.uk

An Overview of the Broad General Education

Across S1-S3, most pupils are working within the level three experiences and outcomes for English and Literacy. ‘Benchmarks’ are essentially descriptors of the skills pupils should be able to demonstrate at each level, and are a valuable tool in assessing pupils’ progress (you will find a copy of the benchmarks for levels 1-4 in the Parent Zone area). Pupils’ progress is closely monitored on the basis of what they can say, write, make, and do, and pupils are provided with appropriately challenging work in order to help them develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and talking. In their exploration of literature, pupils will study texts from a range of genres and will, in addition, experiment with writing for different purposes. Inter-disciplinary learning is undertaken in order to enrich the learning experience and to help pupils understand the transferable nature of their skills.

The Senior Phase

Most pupils will either sit National 3, National 4 or National 5 English at the end of S4. Pupils who achieve National 4 may choose to go on to study National 5 as either a one or a two year-course. Pupils who achieve a pass at National 5 may similarly choose to study Higher English over a one or two year period. For many of the pupils who achieve a ‘C’ grade at National 5, the pace and challenge of a two year Higher course is often most appropriate.

For pupils who achieve a National 3 or National 4 qualification but opt not to continue their study of English, we offer a National 4 Media Studies course in conjunction with a Numeracy component offered by the Maths department.

Pupils who achieve either an ‘A’ or a ‘B’ at Higher have the option of continuing with their study of English by sitting Advanced Higher English.

Homework in English

The BGE

In English, and particularly in the broad general education, homework often tends to arise on the basis of tasks undertaken in class. All pupils are, in addition, encouraged to read on a regular basis at home. Classes read for enjoyment for the first five minutes of each lesson as part of our sustained silent reading programme and visits to the library resource centre are scheduled for pupils in S1 and S2 (pupils are welcome to make additional visits during interval and lunch). Within the English Department's website, you will find lists of books recommended by our pupils. As well as fiction, we recommend that pupils read non-fiction, and quality journalism. We strongly encourage pupils to adopt a regular reading habit at home and believe that doing so will have a significantly positive impact on pupils' literacy skills generally. In addition to reading regularly, there are a number of resources in the 'Broad General Education' area of our website that pupils can work on at home.

The Senior Phase

The nature of homework changes as pupils work towards national qualifications, both in terms of volume and degree of challenge. National 5 and Higher pupils are issued with a copy of their assessment calendar at the beginning of the session and are expected to meet Folio deadlines throughout the year. A copy of this calendar, along with an accompanying letter, is also issued to parents and guardians. While teacher feedback is provided, the Folio requires pupils to work independently to a large extent and it is extremely important that the work submitted is the pupil's own. In addition to their Folio of work, pupils are likely to have Critical Reading tasks to complete at home throughout the session, as well as work relating to Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation. Revision of coursework as preparation for Prelims and final exams should be ongoing.