

14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Spring Term Home Centred Learning Project: Writing**

As you are no doubt aware, last term's reading project was a big success, and we would like to thank you for your support and help in ensuring the very high quality of projects we received. We were very impressed with the hard work Year 9 put in to their projects and the feedback they have given us has shown that they enjoyed doing them too!

This term the focus for the home learning project will be on **Writing**. Students will be asked to complete at least two pieces of writing of around 500 words each (around 3 sides of A4 in total). The writing should be carefully structured according to the criteria set and students will have help sheets to aide them in whichever task they choose; they must write a review about a media text, and then create either a persuasive poster or an anthology of poetry.

As one of the outcomes for the project is to foster independent learning and research skills it is important that the pupils follow the guidelines as to what should be achieved each week. **The process of writing and re-writing their final two pieces of work and checking that they have really shaped what they have written is as important as the final piece.** We would really appreciate your support in ensuring that the standard for this project is as high as it was last term and ask that you encourage your child by taking an active interest in what they have chosen to write about and read what they have written.

The deadline for the project is **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. When the final project is collected in the pupils will be assessed and given a writing level and a target to make further progress in their writing in future work. We will celebrate the successes of the students by publishing a magazine full of the most interesting pieces. There will also be prizes and certificates, as before.

As with the Reading project, the Writing project will be explained in more detail to all pupils in their English lessons and assembly time.

If you have any questions about the project please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's English teacher at the school for further information.

Yours faithfully,

Miss K. Ennew  
Acting Head of English

Miss. H. Downer  
Acting Head of English

## Home Centred Learning Project

### Writing Project

4<sup>th</sup> January - 8<sup>th</sup> February



The Home Centred Learning Project for this half term is a Writing Skills Project. This will help you to develop your skills of writing for specific audiences and purposes which is a key skill for being an effective writer.

You will need to choose one media text to base your writing on. You will then complete at least two tasks based on this media text.

Media texts include: films, series' of television programmes and computer games. You could also use performances including plays, musicals or dance shows you may have seen.

You will need to present your work neatly and attractively. It should include a front cover which is clearly labelled with your name, form group and your English group code and teacher name.

The skills you will be developing in class this half term will help to support your work on your home centred learning project. Each task will be assessing your skills with a different writing focus, remember to refer to your APP sheet in your book to check what you need to show in your work to make progress towards your target level for writing.

Your project is due to be handed in to your tutor in registration on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

### The End Product - What will happen to the projects?

When all the projects have been handed in, the best pieces from each class will be put together as a Year 9 'Best of' magazine. This will be available for students, parents, carers and teachers to buy to share and celebrate all of the excellent work you produce.

There will be prizes and awards for those students who show great effort and creativity in their work, including a main prize of an ipod nano for one student from the 'excellence raffle'.

Good Luck! We look forward to seeing your work!

*The English Department*

*'Suit the action to the word, the word to the action.'*  
*William Shakespeare*

## Home Centred Tasks:

- Watch the media text that you have chosen. (*Media texts can be films, a series of television programmes, computer games, or performances such as a play or dance show that you have seen.*) If you are unsure about your media text, please speak to your teacher to clarify this.
- Using your media text as inspiration, you then must complete task – writing a review of your media text.
- Then, you must choose at least one of the tasks A or B which require you to write for a different **purpose**. This will mean you have to adapt the writing style and techniques you use to match the purpose closely. Your intended audience are parents, carers and teachers who will buy the magazine so your writing should be formal and in clear Standard English.

### **Compulsory Task:**

Write a review of your media text. Aim to write about 500 words, approximately a side and a half of writing.

*Purpose = To review and analyse your media text in a way that is suitable for your audience.*  
This review should include:

- A summary of the media text
- Some information about the three main characters.
- Comments on how effective the visuals are in the text – consider any special effects, camera shots, animation if there is any, costumes and settings.
- Comment on how effective is the sound – does the music help to build atmosphere?
- Comment on how effective the performances are
- Who you think it is aimed at? Why? Would you recommend it to a friend? Why?
- Explain the good and bad points about it before giving it a final rating.

This task will assess your skills on writing focus 2 – how well your writing suits your purpose and audience in terms of its style and word choices.

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Now choose at least **one** of the following to complete in addition:

### **Task A:**

Write a collection of poems based on or inspired by an idea or theme in the media text. Aim to write at least 5 poems which show a range of poetry forms.

*Purpose = To imagine and explore ideas. To describe events, people or places in an interesting way.*

This collection should:

- Show your creative and imaginative ideas inspired by the original media text.
- Remember poetry does not have to rhyme! But you can experiment with this to create different effects
- Consider different forms of poetry, for example: sonnets, shape poems, a dramatic monologue from a character's point of view, a ballad or free verse poetry. If you are unsure what the structure is for any of these poems, ask your teacher, or look on the internet for examples if necessary.
- Your vocabulary is very important so try to use a wide range of words to explore your ideas and remember the techniques of descriptive writing that you learnt from your

autobiography project (similes, metaphors, the 5 senses and varying your sentence lengths)

This task will assess your skills on writing focus 7 – do you choose the most effective words in your writing? This means choosing the most interesting words and phrases to express your ideas to your reader.

**AND / OR**

**Task B:**

A persuasive poster to promote or advertise the media text. This should be on an A4 paper.

*Purpose = to persuade your audience to watch your media text*

You should include:

- Appropriate choices of images
- Use of persuasive techniques such as A.F.O.R.E.S.T techniques  
(*Alliteration, Facts, Opinions, Rhetorical questions, Exaggeration, Statistics, Threes.*)
- Carefully considered use of font size, font type, colour schemes, pull-out boxes and other presentational and design devices.
- **EXTENSION TASK** – To accompany your poster, create a commentary explaining why you have made the language and layout choices in your poster. Explain what effect you wanted to have on the reader and how your choices create these effects. You will need to refer closely to examples from your poster to do this.

This task will assess your skills on writing focus 1 – does my writing interest and engage the reader?

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**Home Centred Tasks Checklist**

Use this to keep a track of your progress with the tasks over the half term

<b>Task Checklist</b>	<b>Tick when complete</b>
A front cover sheet with my name, teacher's name and English group code on the front	
Compulsory Task: A Review	
Task A: A Collection of poetry	
Task B: A persuasive Poster	
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Task B Extension task: A commentary on poster	