

## Independent English Work for Prospective Year 12 Students

### English Language

The great thing about studying language is that any source of words is a set text. Please use these tasks to explore the language you encounter in your everyday life as well as seeking out some new sources and ideas.

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Spoken English</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Find a conversation online such as an interview. Try to transcribe (write down) about 2 minutes of speech. You will need to use the pause button! Once you have everything, try to decide who the dominant participant was and come up with five reasons explaining your choice.</li> <li>➤ Review some of the press briefings and speeches given by Prime Minister Boris Johnson during the coronavirus outbreak. How does he adapt his language to both command and reassure the public? Make notes and try to identify the effects of specific language choices.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Written English</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Track the same news story across a range of newspaper websites (The Guardian, The Daily Mail, The Mirror and Metro are all available for free online). Record the different headlines and analyse the language choices in each, comparing the different meanings and effects created.</li> <li>➤ Write a light-hearted guide for entertaining yourself at home during self-isolation that would appear in the lifestyle or culture section of one of the above newspapers.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Online English</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Keep a record of all the texts and/or online messages that you send in a given time period (an hour, an afternoon or a day depending on the number!). What are the most common phrases and features that you tend to use? Do you use grammatical features such as punctuation? How formal or informal are you? And do any of these things change in certain situations: how does context affect the language produced?</li> </ul>  |

### English Literature

There is a wealth of material that you can read and research online in preparation for your literary studies. Some skilful searching will bring up original texts and relevant background material. Revision websites like Shmoop and Sparknotes are available to help you understand more complex material on a first reading. Productions, films, key scenes and summaries are all available on You Tube too.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Poetry</b> in preparation for studying John Keats  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Have a look at poems by the other Romantic poets: Shelley, Byron, Wordsworth and Coleridge. They can usually be found by just googling the name of the poet but you could use the Poetry Foundation website. Choose a favourite and email us the link with your reasons for choosing it.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Drama</b> in preparation for studying <i>The Tempest</i> , <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> and <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Find copies of the scripts for your set texts online and read them.</li> <li>➤ Research Shakespearean comedy online then watch the National Theatre production of <i>Twelfth Night</i> (streaming live on YouTube on Thu 23/04). Write a review judging the quality of the production.</li> <li>➤ Read another play by Tennessee Williams or try 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller which is also relevant.</li> <li>➤ Research and make notes on Jacobean Revenge Tragedy.</li> </ul>                              |
| <b>Prose</b> in preparation for studying dystopian novels <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> and <i>The Road</i>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Read a recent dystopian novel such as <i>The Hunger Games</i> or Naomi Alderman's <i>The Power</i>. Then move on to a classic in the genre such as George Orwell's <i>1984</i> and Aldous Huxley's <i>Brave New World</i>. Try to write a list of common features that you would expect to find in any dystopian novel.</li> <li>➤ Watch some dystopian TV shows and films such as <i>Westworld</i>, <i>V for Vendetta</i> and <i>Watchmen</i>. Try to avoid spoilers for the set texts in this unit though!</li> </ul> |

Please contact us via email if you have anything to ask or share:  
[cowleyenglishdepartment@sthelens.org.uk](mailto:cowleyenglishdepartment@sthelens.org.uk)