

The importance of reading at Key Stage 3.

A large proportion of a student's homework is taken up by reading. Students are required to read for roughly 20 minutes each night in the week from a book of their choosing. Therefore, it is a requirement that students have their planner signed by a responsible adult to evidence that they have read for a minimum of 1hr 30 mins each week. This can be split up any way the student chooses.

Students must also be challenging themselves to read interesting and varied texts. For advice on potential reading books, please consult the reading portal on the school website (<http://lordlawson.org.uk/reading-portal/>) where there are a wide range booklists and ways to support your child in their reading development.

Reading homework is easily forgotten or sometimes not recorded, but it is very important that students get into a regular reading routine. When students sit their GCSEs they are expected to read large passages of writing in various forms and from different genres. This means that if students aren't comfortable with reading for prolonged periods on a range of topics then they are at a severe disadvantage in their exams. This is why our homework policy places such a heavy emphasis on reading.

Students will be rewarded in class for evidencing good reading habits and those who do not will be issued with sanctions. It can be expected that if a student fails to get their planner signed 3 weeks in a row then they will be issued with a C4 detention for failing to complete their homework.

Sail Projects: In order to improve independent learning behaviours amongst pupils, students will be completing projects as homework to supplement their classroom English lessons in years 7 and 8. Each project will have a series of steps that lead to a final product. Each student must effectively manage their own time to follow the steps and complete the final piece in the set time. Students can access all the steps they need for the project by logging into a computer, accessing the school website and clicking on the following label.



Year 7					
Term	Topic	Key Skills	Assessment Focus	Key Assessments	SAIL Project (Homework)
1a	The Changing English Language	Research skills	AO1	Comparison of letters and electronic communication over time.	The Changing English language: Step 5 Produce a Timeline and present your work to the class.
		Analysing texts for meaning.	AO2		
		Building contextual understanding.	AO3		
1b	The Environment - Non-Fiction Writing	Research skills	AO5	Write a speech that aims to persuade your classmates to agree with your opinion on an environmental issue.	My Planet Under Threat: Step 5: Give my speech to the class
		Speaking and listening.			
		Writing for Form, audience, and purpose.	AO6		
2a	The Gothic Tradition - Reading Focus	Reading for meaning	AO1	How does Shelley present Victor's feelings about the monster in the extract from Frankenstein?	Class Reader: Step 5: Book review
		Analysing language	AO2		
		Applying context	AO3		
2b	Gothic Horror Narrative Writing	Engaging and entertaining readers	AO5	Write a gothic narrative or description inspired by the image provided (image is of a spooky castle)	
		Using conventions of a genre	AO6		
		Writing with technical accuracy.			
3a	Introduction to Shakespeare	Reading texts for meaning	AO1	Starting with the extract, how does Shakespeare present Bottom in Act 1, Scene 2?	Will.I.Am: Step 5: Reviewing Shakespeare.
		Exploring characterisation.	AO2		
		Understanding literary tradition.	AO3		
3b	Macbeth and Shakespeare Showcase	Speaking and listening	AO1,2 and 3	Shakespeare showcase	Preparing for the Shakespeare showcase

Year 8

Term	Topic	Key Skills	Assessment focus	Key Assessments	SAIL Project (homework)
1b	Of Mice and Men' John Steinbeck - Reading focus	Reading for understanding, applying context, analysing language.	Literature: AO1 and 2	How does Steinbeck present characters dealing with being an outsider in 'Of Mice and Men?'	Research into the context of the novel: Step 5: Class/group discussion on the role of the American Dream in the novel.
			Literature: AO3		
1a	Spy fiction - Writing Focus	Building tension, character development, writing for a specific genre.	Writing: AO5	Narrative writing: a moment of action (chase scene) from a spy story -draft Narrative writing: a moment of action	
			Writing: AO6		
2a	Contentious issues - Argumentative / Persuasive Writing	Writing for form, audience and purpose. Persuasive writing.	Writing: AO5	Comment is free: Write an article in which you argue your point of view	Presenting my point of view: Step 5: Unscripted presentation to the class arguing my point of view on a contentious issue.
			Writing: AO6		
2b	World Poetry - Reading Focus	Understanding poetic form, analysing language, applied context.	Literature AO1, 2 and 3.	Compare how poet's present culture in 'Island Man' and one other poem?	Poetry: Creating an anthology of my own work. Step5: presenting my anthology
3a	Writing from WW1 - Writing Focus	Descriptive and poetic techniques, structuring a description. Analysing texts for meaning	Writing: AO5	Write a description inspired by an image taken from WWI.	Researching context: War Horse Unit.
			Writing: AO6		
3b	Much Ado About Nothing.	Understand the conventions of dramatic texts, applied context, generic conventions.	Literature AO1, 2 and 3.	How does Shakespeare present the character of Beatrice in Act 1 Scene 1 and the play as a whole?	Love in a Time Machine: Step 5 Showcase of drama work or work based on texts.

Year 9

Term	Topic	Key Skills	Assessment Focus	Key Assessments	Homework
1a	Political discourse: Bias and its effects.	Understanding perspective, opinion and attitude. Understanding bias and viewpoint.	Language AO1 and 2	Explain how the author conveys their attitude and opinion towards ____.	Task 1 due 25th Sept Task 2 due 2nd Oct Task 3 due 26th Oct
1b	Dystopian Fiction - Writing Focus	Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, organise information and ideas, using structural features, use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, accurate spelling and punctuation	Language AO5 & 6	Descriptive writing: Opening of a dystopian fiction: focus on setting -final	Due 11th Nov Analyse the beginning of a spy novel. Due 4th Dec description of tailing a suspect.
2a	Non-fiction reading: introduction to paper 2	Language AO4 Evaluating texts Language: AO2 Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.	AO1, 2, 3	Paper 2 style questions.	TBC
2b	20th Century Fiction: Explorations into Narra-	Same as 1b	Writing AO5 & 6	Write a narrative or description inspired by one of the images provided (4 images of animals provided).	TBC
3a	Unseen Poetry	Language AO1 Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal re-	Language AO1, AO2	In 'November', how does the poet present the speaker's feelings about leaving the grandmother?	TBC
3b	GCSE Literature Text: 'Blood Brothers' Willy Russell	Understand plot and character. Understand dramatic method.	Literature AO1, AO2 & AO3	Present your understanding of plot and character in Blood Brothers.	TBC