

Subject	Year 8 Content – Spring Term	How to support students' learning
English Assessment focus: 1. 'Oliver Twist' essay response.	<i>Oliver Twist</i> - Students will read Charles Dickens' <i>Oliver Twist</i> and develop their knowledge of 19th century literature and writing styles. - Students will develop analysis skills, exploring the language, form and structure of the novel. - Students will develop their existing knowledge of genres and context, Victorian England and attitudes to children/the poor, exploring the author's intentions and reader responses to the novel. - Students will practice their oracy skills throughout lessons, exploring their existing and developing ideas around characterisation, morality/injustice, and key themes from the novel. - Alongside their reading of the novel, students will develop their imaginative writing skills, focusing on characterisation. - Students will partake in structured revision lessons, providing them with skills and techniques needed to revise, plan and prepare for their end of module assessment.	• Encourage your child to read widely for pleasure, listening to them read and discussing their reading if possible. • Encourage your child to complete their Sparx Reader and spelling homework each week (using the homework booklet provided). Support your child to use a physical or online dictionary to identify the definitions of the spellings set and record these in their homework booklet. • Encourage your child to complete at least 2 of the 'own work' activities outlined in their termly homework booklet, to help consolidate the topics and issues encountered in their English lessons. Students should bring their completed activities into English lessons so that teaching staff can discuss with students what they have learnt and award TTS points. • Encourage your child to revise content taught in school from their class notes or resource/homework booklets, testing them on the key concepts and vocabulary for each topic, if possible. • Encourage your child to use Sparknotes or Litcharts to enrich their understanding of the set texts studied.

	On Humanity: Short Stories 1. Across the module, students will read a selection of modern short stories from different cultures which explore the concept of being human. 2. Students will explore a range of literary forms and structures and a variety of contextual issues, including the American Dream, poverty, crime and the justice system. 3. Students will develop oracy skills by exploring key themes from texts that relate to human experiences and emotions. 4. Students will analyse short stories, exploring the presentation of themes and characters to consider what it means to be human. The issues explored include family relationships and moral conflicts caused by poverty. 5. Students will develop transactional writing skills, using themes from the stories to explore questions relating to what it means to be human.	• Encourage your child to practise writing analytical paragraphs for the texts studied, considering a variety of ideas and themes. • Encourage your child to learn re-read the novel they are studying at home, identifying and recording key quotations from Oliver Twist in advance of their end of term assessment. • Encourage your child to revise their knowledge of grammar by visiting the KS3 grammar pages on the BBC Bitesize website. • Encourage your child to engage in English-related Session 3 opportunities that may align with their interest, such as the creative writing group, sports journalism, 'Her Voice', and others.
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