

huish
RICHARD HUISH



Headteacher: Mr J Eddy, BA (Hons)

Cheddon Road

Taunton TA2 7QP

Tel: 01823 348200

Email: reception@thetauntonacademy.com

www.thetauntonacademy.com

6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 7 English at The Taunton Academy

As we begin our second half term of the new academic year, I thought I would provide you with some information about our English provision for Year 7.

First of all, we have been incredibly impressed at how well our new students have settled in and adapted to the routines of a secondary school. So far, they have been taught in their tutor groups and they have fully engaged with our lessons and supported one another during what can be an unsettling time. The teachers in our department have enjoyed their creativity and willingness to learn. We are just nearing the end of a unit of work on poetry and students have written some beautiful poems around the theme of the environment.

The theme for Year 7 in English is “The Evolution of English Literature” and, across the year, we will be taking students back through time from modern poetry and a modern novel, through the Victorian era and Charles Dickens, through Shakespeare, medieval myths and legends and ending with a study into the origins of the English language. We hope that this will build a solid foundation for the students’ future study of literature.

This half term, students will be reorganised into broad ability groups. This will help us to target resources and support in order to develop the abilities of all of our students. They will then begin work on a class novel. Some students will be reading “Once” by Morris Gleitzman and others “Skellig” by David Almond. We will be exploring the context, characters and storylines of the books and introducing students to ways in which we can analyse the language that writers use: a key skill that is vital to success in English further down the line.

Once a week, students are also focusing on spelling, reading skills such as skimming and scanning and independent reading. All students have a Spelling and Reading Record booklet where they complete their spelling tests and record their independent reading. We are also delighted to let you know that all students have been lent a book from our library. They completed a short questionnaire about their reading preferences and ability and our librarian, Mrs Councill, has allocated them a book. Throughout the year, we will continue to develop students’ love of reading and their access to books in our library. We are a school that is committed to encouraging a strong reading culture and for this to improve students’ chances, they are required to read independently as well as during DEAR time. Your support and encouragement

The Taunton Academy is part of the Richard Huish Trust, a company limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 9320523

Registered Office: Richard Huish College, South Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3DZ



Education
Endowment
Foundation



from home will be an essential part of the process so please encourage your son or daughter to read to you and discuss what they are reading.

Finally, we look forward to continuing our work with you and building positive attitudes to both reading and writing with our students. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further queries about English provision at The Taunton Academy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin yellow rectangular border. The signature reads "R Logsdon." with a period at the end.

Rachael Logsdon
Deputy Head of English