Sandringham School

'Everybody can be Somebody'

English Language A Level

Summer Work, Pre-Course Preparations

Please ensure you have completed the following tasks ahead of your first lessons in September.

1. **Be clear about the main levels of language and the principal word classes.**
   Create a glossary for the following terms: syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonetics, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions. You are advised to create this in a Google Doc, you will add to this document as you progress through the course.

2. **Read 'Words Words Words' by David Crystal**
   This book will give you an overview of the key concepts that we will cover in the course, as well as some insight into additional language issues which will support your linguistic understanding. You are encouraged to make notes (post-it notes in the book) where you have found something interesting or significant.

3. **Write an opinion article about a language concept or issue.**
   Investigate a language issue or concept and explore this in an opinion article. This might be something you are curious about, a linguistic concept or a social issue related to language. You may wish to use the examples below as a starting point:
   Accent Bias:
   https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2022/nov/03/bias-against-working-class-and-regional-accents-has-not-gone-away-report-finds
   Language and Gender: https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/english-and-gender
   Language Change: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmvOgW6iV2s

4. **Write a book review focusing on the use of language**
   As language students, you should be reading widely and consistently. Over summer, read a book (a novel) over summer and write a review focusing particularly on the writer's use of language. Consider how they have created characters, setting, action and dialogue. You might want to choose a novel which is known to have an interesting language style or features.

You will also need to purchase the following items to ensure you are prepared:

1. **Course textbooks**

English Language A/AS Level for AQA, Student Book – Marcello Giovanelli, Gary Ives.Cambridge Press. June 2015.
https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-English-Language-Student-Book/dp/1107465621

AQA English Language A Level and AS – Dan Clayton, Angela Goddard. – Oxford University Press.
https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Level-English-Language-Student/dp/0198334001

2. **Subject folders** – you will need two, one for each paper. You are advised to purchase dividers as well.

If you would like some further reading for summer, we highly recommend the texts listed below:

English Language
Lynne Truss – Eats, Shoots and Leaves
David Crystal – Words, Words, Words; The Stories of English; Shakespeare on toast.
Susie Dent – Modern Tribes: the secret languages of Britain
Deborah Cameron – The Myth of Mars and Venus; do men and women really speak different languages?
Guy Deutscher – The Unfolding of Language
Pragya Agarwal - Sway: Unravelling Unconscious Bias
Gina Rippon - The Gendered Brain
David Crystal - Listen to Your Child
Simon Horobin - How English Became English
Laurie Bauer - Language Myths

Wider reading

You could explore any of these fantastic writers – some titles in brackets:
Invisible Women – Caroline Criado-Perez
Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race – Renni Eddo-Lodge
To the River – Olivia Laing
Prisoners of Geography – Tim Marshall
Moab is my Washpot – Stephen Fry
Ian McEwan (On Chesil Beach, Nutshell)
Sebastian Faulks (Engelby, Birdsong)
Ali Smith (How to be both, Seasonal Quartet)
Bernadine Evaristo (Girl, woman other)
Rachel Kushner (The Mars Room)
Zadie Smith (White Teeth, Swing Time)
Kazuo Ishiguro (Klara and the Sun)
Alice Walker (The Colour Purple)
George Orwell (1984)
George Bernard Shaw (Pygmalion)
Jonathan Franzen (The Corrections)
Sylvia Plath (The Bell Jar)
Margaret Atwood (The Handmaid's Tale)
Kate Atkinson (Behind the scenes at the museum)
Andrea Levy (Small Island)