

# Burnside High School English Department



## Year 10 Course Outline

Welcome to Year 10 English. This year in English you will continue to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of language in all its varieties: written, spoken and visual. As you already know, being a confident and competent language user is one of the most valuable skills you can have.

### Why study English?

- To increase your ability to understand, respond to and use language effectively, accurately and confidently in a wide variety of language situations.
- To extend your imagination through language and literature.
- To extend your awareness of ideas and values through language.
- To help you engage with and enjoy language and literature in all its varieties.

### What will we do in English?

You can expect a broad and enriching programme and you will experience:

- A wide range of activities
- An increasing emphasis on reading and studying different kinds of written and visual material – plays, novels, short stories, poems, media, film, television, thematic units.

### What do I need for English?

This year you will keep your English work in a ring-binder. To assist you in keeping this organised please label your folders/dividers in the following way unless your English teacher gives you different instructions:

- Reading Skills
- Writing
- Text Study
- Film
- Grammar/ Language

Also keep in your folder the dictionary you purchased last year.

In addition to the folder you will also all need an exercise book to use as a journal.

### Homework

Homework will be set regularly and you can expect to spend approximately half an hour at least three times a week on your English homework. This is a valuable part of your classroom programme that reinforces what has been taught and also encourages you to develop the skills of an independent learner. Remember that you should always have a book that you are reading at home.

## How will my work be assessed?

Your work will be assessed at regular intervals throughout the year so that you, your parents and your teacher can all see the progress you are making. These assessments will also help you identify the areas you need to work on in order to improve your skills and understanding in English.

Your work will be assessed against the national English curriculum. The national English curriculum shows that most Year 10 students should be working at what is called “Level 5”. To gain an “achieved” grade for any task is very good – it means you are where a Year 10 student is expected to be for that task. If you achieve a “merit” or “excellence” grade, you can feel very proud of yourself as it indicates you are working at a higher level than other year 10 students in the country.

Grade	Level of the Curriculum
Not Achieved	shows the work is not yet at Level 5
Achieving with Difficulty	some aspects of the work are not yet at Level 5
Achieved	Level 5 of the national curriculum
Merit	shows aspects of the work are above level 5
Excellence	shows work is well above Level 5

## Common assessments

During the year there will be a number of common assessments. These are assessments that will be completed by all Year 10 classes. Your teacher will inform you of each assessment and what is expected well before they are due. Your task is to make sure you are organised and complete each assessment properly.

<b>Term 1 and term 2</b>
Formal writing
Creative Writing
Close reading (Comprehension)
<b>Term 3</b>
Making connections – theme study
<b>Term 4</b>
Speech
Examination

## The Library

The staff in the library are specialists who are always happy to help you. The library will be an important part of your Year 10 English programme. It houses, of course, an excellent selection of books for your personal reading but in Year 10 English you will be expected to develop your research skills in a research assignment that all Year 10 classes will complete.

**We hope you find the year stimulating, extending, confidence-building and fun! Ask if you're unsure about anything, because we're here to help, guide and encourage! The more you get involved, the greater your gain in language skills, competence and confidence.**