

Burnside High School English Department

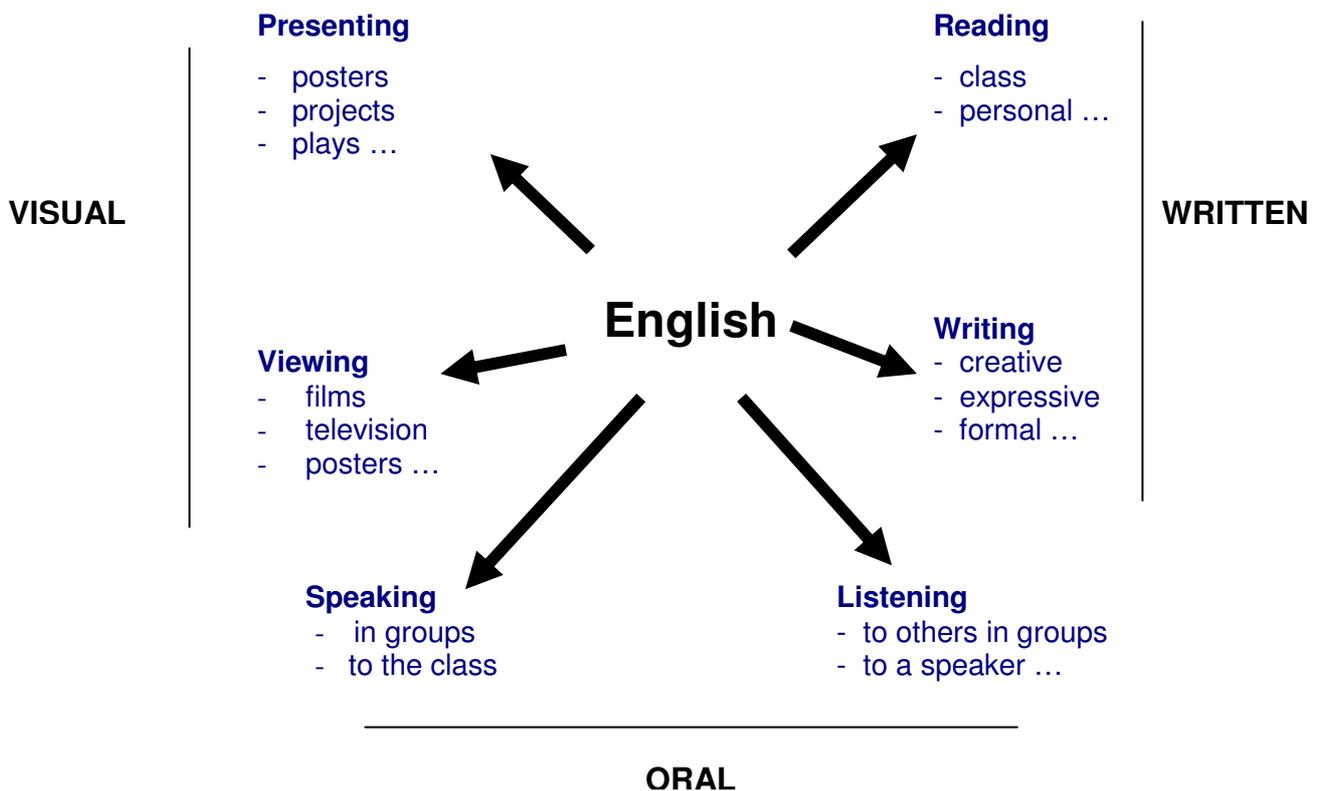


Year 9 Course Outline

Welcome to the English Department and to Year 9 English. You may find English as a subject is new to you but many of the skills and activities will be similar to your studies under the heading of Reading and Language at Primary or Intermediate school.

The name of my English teacher is: _____

What is English?



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.

You may have your own ideas about the usefulness of studying English. You could add these to this list and/or discuss them with your teacher.

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
- Language / Grammar

In addition to the folder you will also all need an exercise book to use as a journal. If at all possible, you should also buy a dictionary that can be stored in your folder. The school is selling these dictionaries.

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 9 students should be working at what is called “Level 4”. To gain an “achieved” grade for any task is very good – it means you are where a Year 9 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 9 students in the country.

Grade	Level of the Curriculum
Not Achieved	shows the work is not yet at Level 4
Achieving with Difficulty	some aspects of the work are not yet at Level 4
Achieved	Level 4 of the national curriculum
Merit	shows aspects of the work are above level 4
Excellence	shows work is well above Level 4

asTTle

asTTle is a special test of your reading skills. This test will be administered early in Term 1. There will then be another asTTle test in Term 4 that will enable us to see how well you have progressed during the year.

Common assessments

During the year there will be a number of common assessments. These are assessments that will be completed by all Year 9 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.

Term 1
asTTle
Close Reading (reading Comprehension)
Listening Skills
Term 2
Language skills, including spelling
Creative Writing
Term 3
Speech
Term 4
Examination
asTTle

The Library

The library is one of the most important places in the school. The library not only offers a wonderful selection of books for you all to read but it is the research centre of the school. This is where you will learn information literacy skills and to manage your own learning as you complete research projects, not just in English but in a whole range of subjects. The staff in the library are specialists who are always happy to help you. During Term 1 you will complete a special orientation programme in the library that will help you gain skills in finding information. Make the most of this programme because you will need these skills through school and beyond.

Homework

Homework will be set regularly and you can expect to spend approximately half an hour four 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.

Reporting

Interim reports are sent home in Term 1. This is followed by a full report in Term 2 and another full report at the end of Term 4. There will be an opportunity for your parents to meet with your teachers to discuss your progress. All these dates will be advertised in the school newsletters.

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.