



16th December 2016

Dear Parents

Year 8 suggested English revision material for January entrance examinations

Some of the children have asked if there is anything they can do in preparation for the English part of entrance exams to be sat in early January. Some have also asked for papers to try over the holidays, so I suggest the following.

I have given out folders, which contain:

- A Common Entrance comprehension paper and a mark scheme.
- A booklet with areas to focus on, tips and tasks.
- A revision leaflet

I believe that the exam format will be similar to the Common Entrance: comprehension on a poem and a piece of prose, and an extended writing task. The candidates should showcase their ability with regards to punctuation, style, use of good writing techniques, vocabulary and expression. These are all areas we cover in lessons and encourage the children to include in any written piece.

I would suggest that they look at the comprehension papers, try to answer the questions in note form and then check against the mark scheme. They could then revise those areas they have missed out, forgotten or misunderstood. It will also be useful to look carefully at the mark scheme for exam technique.

Obviously this work is not compulsory and whilst Mrs Beasley and I will be more than happy to discuss anything, please do not feel under any pressure to force your child to do these papers - although they can serve as good topics for discussion if nothing else. Of course, there is no substitute for reading a good book where elements of comprehension and exposure to good practice are intrinsic parts of the process.

In addition, the children, as owners of iPads, have the luxury of accessing revision guides and other prepared documentation including suggested websites, via Firefly. Revision tips can be found via Prep, Y8, English, Revision.

I hope this is helpful and if you would like to contact me to ask any questions, feel free to do so on gchitty@townclose.com.

Kind regards

Ghislaine Chitty
Head of English