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Outcomes Focused, Child Centred

Dear Parents /Guardians of Year 10,

RE: Year 10 GCSE English Language Homework

I am writing to you in order to introduce the new arrangements for homework that the English Department at Thorp Academy will be using in Year 10 GCSE English Language from this half term onwards.

As you are aware, your child is following AQA 8700 GCSE English Language and AQA 8702 English Literature. Each of these courses will terminate in the summer of Year 11, 2020, and your child will be expected to sit 100% terminal examinations in both subjects.

In order to better support your child to meet the challenge of this, the English Department wish to further develop the 'independent reading stamina' of our GCSE pupils. Both of the English Language papers require students to be secure readers across a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. Having worked hard with our GCSE students following the same examination routines in recent times, we have concluded that exposure to a wide range of reading material and the chance to respond to texts independently, would be more beneficial if students had access to them regularly and consistently before they begin Year 11.

We have decided therefore to introduce a routine of weekly homework, designed to provide your child with a range of reading materials and also to reinforce the key skills and terms needed to discuss them.

As from this week, every Year 10 student will be supplied with a CGP English workbook which will be used on a weekly basis to set homework. As these workbooks have been purchased by the English Department and provided to your child, **our expectations are that our Year 10 students will look after their workbooks properly, taking responsibility to transfer them between home and school as expected by their class teacher.**

Year 10 homework in English Language will be **set on a Friday and the expected submission date will always be Tuesday** of the following week. Students will be directed towards the reading material, tasks, and page numbers to be completed each week. Submission of independent reading homework will be recorded and acknowledged by your child's English teacher using the following 'traffic light' code:

RED - Workbook has not been submitted this week / OR Student response is of too poor quality to meet the success criteria of the exercise. Currently, student is not helping themselves practise key reading skills in order to reach their target grade.

AMBER – Student has handed homework in late / however the quality of the student response is good and highlights they are helping themselves to work towards their target GCSE grade.

GREEN – Student has submitted homework on time / Student has provided a good quality and thorough response which highlights they are helping themselves to work towards their target GCSE grade.

Teachers in the English department may also provide classes with whole class feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of homework tasks, as well as sharing and discussing good examples as peer coaching exercises.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the student support services we offer at Thorp to help students complete independent work beyond taught lesson time. Each afternoon from 2:30pm Mrs Khalil and Mrs Lemmon welcome all students in Years 7 – 11 to ‘Achievement Club;’ this session provides students with a quiet place to work in our purpose built library and also offers refreshments. Attending ‘Achievement Club’ regularly can count towards your child fulfilling their ‘pledges’ and Mrs Khalil will sign planners.

In addition, our specialist English Teaching Assistant, Mrs Ross, is available to work specifically with Year 10 students in the English Department at 2:30pm, at the end of the school day on Mondays. As we recognise that the life of a teenager can be busy, we would especially like to offer this quiet working time and homework support to any student who finds they have struggled to complete the workbook tasks at home in any given week.

Please expect the first set of homework to be set by teachers in the **dept on Friday 8th March**. I would invite you to have a look through the CGP workbooks when they arrive at home, as they are of really good quality and your child should be able to discuss with you their exercises for the week.

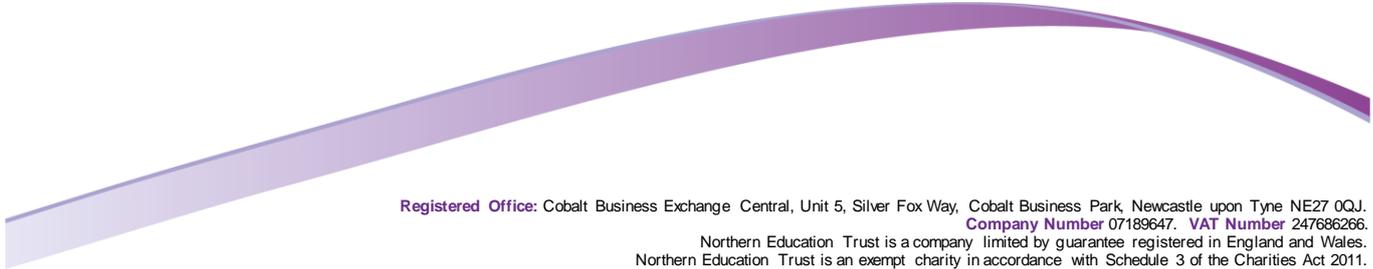
Thank you for the continued support of your child and of the teaching staff in the English Department as we endeavour to work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for the students at Thorp Academy. If you have any further questions or would like to contact me to discuss these plans for homework, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

e.haws@northerneducationtrust.org

Yours faithfully,

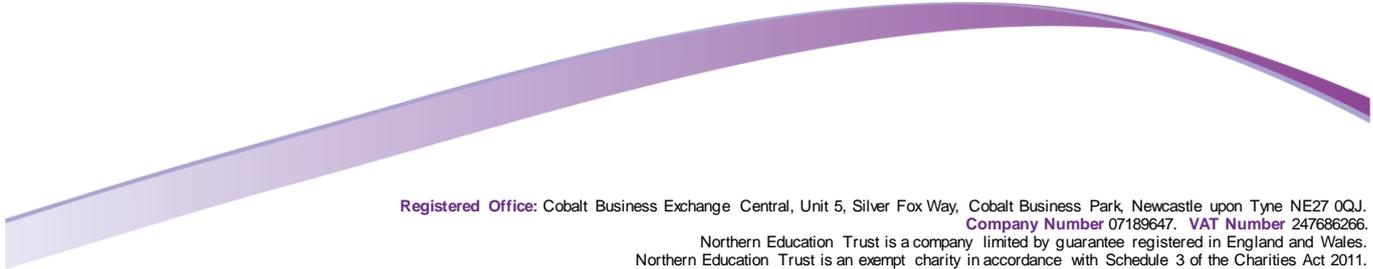
Mrs E. Haws

Faculty Lead for English



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