



**Sandringham School**

*'Everybody can be Somebody'*

## English Language A Level

### Summer Work 2023, 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 or digitally, you will add to this document as you progress through the course.

**Submission** – Please bring a copy to your first lesson, ready to share with Ms Potter and Ms Clifford.

2. **Prepare a text exploring its key representations.** You will need to research and read an article (subject of your choice) and consider how language has been used to present the topic and ideas it discusses. You might want to begin by considering the writer and the audience, how opinions and facts are presented, and if there are specific language methods used for effect. When choosing a text, you might want to consider an article, an extract from fiction or non-fiction writing.

**Submission** – Present your articles and your findings in a short presentation. Share your presentation with Ms Potter.

3. **Investigate a language concept or issue.** Prepare a short presentation about an aspect of English Language that you are especially interested in or would like to explore further. This might be something you are curious about, a linguistic concept or a social issue related to language. (You might want to explore the texts and podcasts below as a starting point.) Your presentation should be about 3-5 minutes long, again, you might want to use Google Slides.

**Submission** – Present your investigation to Ms Clifford.

**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)

**If you would like to take your exploration of language and linguistics further, these podcasts are also fantastic.**

BBC Radio 4 - Word of Mouth

Lexis

Penguin Books

Shakespeare and Co.