

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Sixth Form: Transition Pack

Welcome to English Language



We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the Sixth Form.

This Transition Pack contains information to support your transition from GCSE to A Level study.

Please read all the pack ready to begin Year 12:

- English Language – Tips and suggestions for the first few weeks
 - English Language Introductory Task
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- ✓ **Read the Subject Information Sheet** which is available here:
 - ✓ [CRGS Sixth Form Subject Sheet - English Language](#)
 - ✓ **Download the exam board specification** which is available here: [AQA A Level English Language](#)
 - ✓ **Read the section called 'Specification at a Glance'**, focusing on the A Level content.
 - ✓ Some of these resources will become more useful when you have moved further through the course, such as the A Level specification, so store them where you can revisit them over the next 2 years.
 - ✓ Don't worry if some of the work sounds challenging. A Level work is more difficult than GCSE work after all. Your teachers will be supporting you through this transition. Please talk to us if you are unsure about any aspect of the course.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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English Language A Level

Tips and suggestions for the first few weeks

Terminology practice	<p>You will learn a wide range of terminology; you don't need to know it all at once. Recapping GCSE will help but the more you revisit the new terminology in Y12, the better you will be at it and the easier you will find the transition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brush up on your grammar if you find this area to be weaker.• There are many different websites you can look at for tutorials but start with: http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Work your way through the different 'word grammar' and 'sentence grammar' sections, reading the fact sheets, completing the work sheets and taking the quizzes.• Listen to TED talks on grammar to widen your understand of the subject. This enables you to see what other people's perspectives are. You can listen to them online or download the app. Follow these links to get you started: https://www.ted.com/topics/literature http://blog.ed.ted.com/2014/05/29/be-a-better-writer-in-15-minutes-4-ted-ed-lessons-on-grammar-and-word-choice/
Suggested reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Editorials or news articles about the world – we want you to have opinions!• Editorials or viewpoints on language and language change• General articles on bilingualism, how children learn language, how and why language changes, how language influences social groups and how it can be used to manipulate / control.• 'The Mother Tongue' – Bill Bryson• 'The Story of English' - Robert MacNeil, Robert McCrum and William Cran• 'Language and Society' (Living Language series) - Susan Cockcroft• 'The Adventure of English: the Biography of a Language' - Melvyn Bragg• 'The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language' / 'Rediscover Grammar' – David Crystal• A range of podcasts and audiobooks are available online which cover English Language. Some of the issues they cover are: Accent and Dialect; Language and Gender; Language and Ethnicity; World English – you could search for these and then choose one you like the sound of.
Useful websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/launch_tl_ages_english.shtml• Back issues of: http://www.worldwidewords.org/• https://www.sporcle.com/games/spoodrunbkbk/english-language-a-level-terminology

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Unless you specifically want to, we do not suggest buying the books listed above. They can be expensive. Many can be borrowed from CRGS Sixth Form Library. Books can also be reserved and borrowed free of charge from most local libraries.

A Level - English Language

Introductory Task

Welcome to the English Department!

Over the course of the two years, you will study a wide range of ideas and concepts. You will also create your own piece of Original Writing, with a commentary and a Language Investigation. The latter is a study of how we use language in a specific area. You will also learn about how English is spoken differently across the globe, how children acquire language as well as how language has changed over time.

Respond to the following prompts in note form (these can take any format). You don't need to write more than about a page but if an area is really interesting to you, feel free to write more.

1. Which words and / phrases are used by social group which may be different to those of your teachers / parents / carers? Why do you think this difference exists?
2. What do you think of accents and dialects? Are some seen as more trustworthy or reliable than others? Why do you think this is? Do you think society will ever change its opinions?
3. Find out **eight** words which are unique to a regional dialect. Do you think it's a shame these words are dying out or is it **just** evolution?
4. What were your first words? What does this tell you about what was important to you as a child? Do you think the words might be different depending on the country a child is born into? If you don't know your first words, ask a friend or you could Google 'which words are most commonly spoken first?'
5. Language and Technology is a key area we will explore. What changes do you think technology has brought to English? Are these changes positive, negative, or a mixture of the two?
6. At the end of Y12, you will produce your own original writing. Locate an example of a speech you think is effective and an extract from a novel / short story / poem which you think is well written. You don't need to print your examples, but you will need the title, the author and be able to explain why you chose it.
7. What do we mean by World Englishes? What are some of the reasons English in other countries is so different to ours? Do you think American English is having a negative impact on the language?

Feel free to discuss with your parents / carers or friends – we welcome debate!