

BBS English Department

Year 6 Transition Booklet



Hello Year 6 – nearly Year 7!

Sadly, we have not had the opportunity to introduce you to Burton Borough's team of English teachers. So, we have produced this booklet for you and your parents to give an insight into who we are; what you will be doing in the Autumn term; some information on a software package which develops your knowledge and vocabulary; to let you know some of our favourite words; some words of wisdom from current Year 7 students; and to recommend some reading and research. We hope that this makes you feel more confident and more enlightened about what you can expect when you come to join us in the new academic year.



Do take time to read this booklet. We suggest your parents/carers do too! There is lots of information for them as well. To keep up-to-date with what we are doing, we strongly suggest that you and/or your parents follow us on 'twitter'



BBS English Department



Our twitter account is @BBSEnglishDept



BBS School's twitter account has all BBS news: @BurtonBorough

Welcome Year 6 - into Year 7

As we very sadly can't meet you in person this year before your start, we thought we would introduce ourselves to you – and let you know a little bit about the English team. We are very much looking forward to getting to know you all – and for you to enjoy our curriculum. We are one of the biggest teams of teachers in the School – and our rooms are on the first floor – COMMS. Geography, History and RE can also be found here. So, have a read – get to know something about us as a team – and the work that you will be doing! Enjoy your summer ... BBS English Dept



I am Miss Owen, Head of English. I completed my BA degree at Nottingham Trent University after which I became a music journalist in Nottingham and London. A few years later, I studied at Keele University to become a teacher. I completed my training at BBS in 1999 – and have thoroughly enjoyed teaching full time here since 2002. A long time! I am a big music fan, love reading, walking, visiting bustling cities, going to the theatre and the movies. My favourite place to be, however, is on an uncrowded beach. See you soon!

I am Mrs Griffiths, Second in English. I completed by BA (Hons) in English Language & Linguistics at the University of Sheffield in 2011. I went straight on to complete my teacher training degree and Masters in Education at the University of Birmingham as I always knew I wanted to teach. I have been at BBS since 2017 and I have loved every minute! It's a great place to be! I love to visit new places, go to the theatre and sing! I cannot wait to meet you all!



I am Mrs Heins, I am an English teacher and also the Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead at Burton Borough. I went to the University of Huddersfield, where I did an English and Communication Arts degree and then to Trinity and All Saints college in Leeds to do an English PGCE. I have been at Burton Borough for 10 years and I really love teaching here. My hobbies are travelling; I love seeing the world; I also really love to read and go to the theatre when I have the chance. I am really looking forward to meeting you all in September.

I am Mr Allen and I came to Burton Borough from Liverpool via London and Hampshire. I graduated from the University of Warwick and then did my teacher training at the University of Bath. Initially, I was going to be a primary school teacher but it turned out I enjoyed teaching the older students even more. During most of my career, I have been a Head of House or Head of year but I am currently the Head of High Potential Students here at BBS and run the BBS University. I love film, open world adventure games, table top gaming - and stories of all kinds.



Who will your Year 7 teacher be?

Meet Team English

I am Miss Beaver, English teacher and Whole School Democracy Coordinator here at BBS. I graduated with a BA (Hons) degree in English Literature and Philosophy from the University of Birmingham. I then completed my teacher training at the University of Worcester. I have taught at BBS since 2017. I love long walks, parkrun and spending time in my favourite place, The Lake District. I am originally from South Wales, so I love to walk and run near the coast when I visit my family. I can't wait to meet you all soon!



I am Mr Dunbar, Whole School Literacy Lead and a teacher of English. I completed my LLB(Hons) (law degree) at the University of Wolverhampton. I went on to practice law for 5 years whilst completing a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice at the University of Wolverhampton and a BA(Hons) in English through the Open University. I started my PGCE to train to teach at Newman University in 2013 and qualified in 2014. I have taught at BBS since 2016. I love to explore new places and seek out the best coffee I can find! I look forward to seeing you soon!

I am Miss Jones, English teacher. I first left my little Welsh town to live in London and study fashion journalism at The University for the Creative Arts for a year which luckily gave me the chance to visit London and Paris Fashion Weeks. I then completed my BA (Hons) in Journalism at Roehampton University in South London whilst working at various magazines. I adore fashion, design, books and magazines which is why I run our school's Journalism club. In 2016, I studied my PGCE at Edge Hill University and have been working with the fantastic BBS English team ever since. I'm extremely excited to meet you all soon.



I am Mrs Mahon, English teacher and Head of Hawkstone Small School. I graduated in English Language and Literature from the University of Liverpool and completed my teacher training qualification a few years later in Manchester. I've taught at BBS for 9 happy years now, having previously taught students from all over the world when I worked in Abu Dhabi, UAE. I love live music, theatre, going for long walks with my golden retriever and travelling to exciting places. I'm looking forward to meeting you all soon!

I am Mrs. Steadman, Teacher of English at BBS. I completed my English BA (Hons) at the University of Wolverhampton then I carried on my studies at the same university where I gained my PGCE in English. I trained at BBS and have been here for just over a year and a half. I thoroughly enjoy it - and I am sure that you will too. I love listening to music, reading, and going for walks. I am really looking forward to seeing you in September!



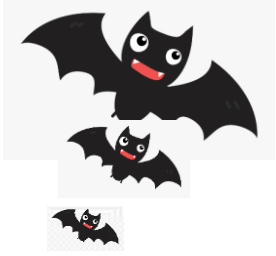
Miss White



I am Miss White, English teacher at BBS. I graduated with a BA(Hons) degree from Staffordshire University before completing my teacher training at Keele University. I've taught in Cornwall and Staffordshire but this is my first year at BBS. I'm happy to help show you around as I'm still learning where everything is! I love reading, going for long walks, listening to live music, exploring new places and (of course) chocolate. I can't wait to meet you all!



First Unit of Work: Spine-Tingling Tales



Developing Reading Skills

Your first unit of work is called 'Spine-Tingling Tales' which will be based around gothic/supernatural short stories written by superb writers such as Edgar Allan Poe, HG Wells and WW Jacobs. You will start to develop your **reading skills** such as: comprehension, inference, understanding how to appreciate the writer's crafting of a story with their use of language and structure. You will also work on expressing informed evaluations based on characters and their actions, justifying your impressions based on what you have read.

Top tip: read some of the books from the reading list or the info for parents sheet before you arrive.



English at KS3/4 is not simply literacy like you do in KS1/2. Of course, literacy is something you need for every area of the curriculum. In English, you will obviously read for understanding and meaning. We also read to infer, compare, analyse and evaluate. You will learn how to develop a line of argument and qualify/justify your ideas with different interpretations. The more you read, the easier it becomes.

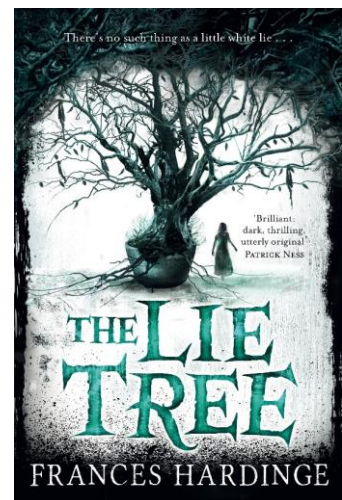
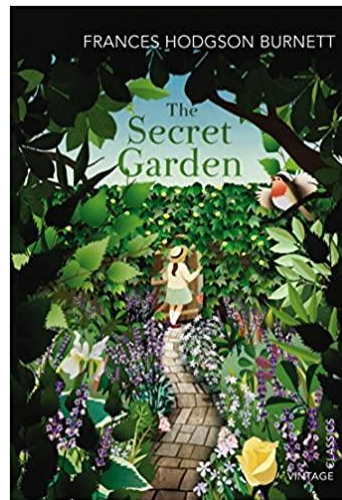
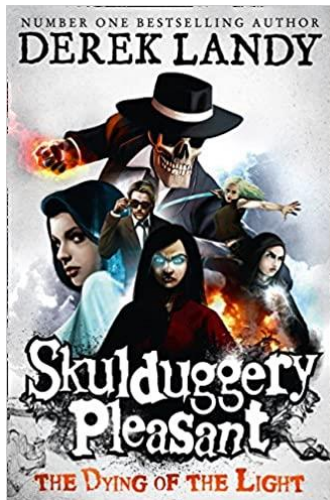
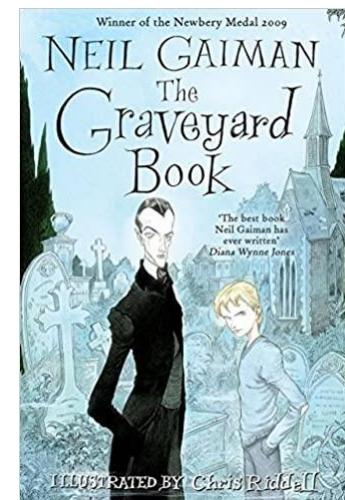
Improving Writing Skills

Top tip: write your own supernatural story in your holidays. Or find out what supernatural means!

We know that you have done a lot of **story writing** and **descriptive writing** in KS1 and KS2. We will be working with you to improve your writing through considering carefully your language choices, vocabulary, sentence types and structure. It is so important to have as many words as you can at your fingertips so that you can really express and describe exactly what you want to. We look forward to reading your work. If you have any writing that you are proud of, bring it along and show it to your English teacher.



Get Reading This Summer



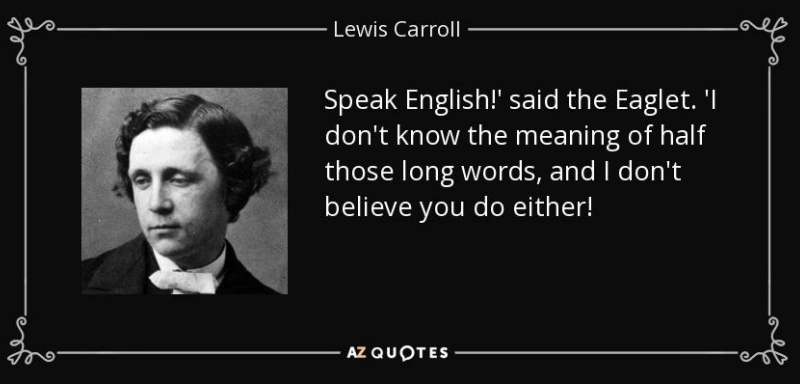


bedrock vocabulary

Once very fortnight, you will be timetabled in to work on computers in an English lesson. Part of your English homework is to continue with your Bedrock courses. It is so important to keep adding words to the ones that know already. Have you ever been annoyed because you just can't remember the word that you really want to use? Ever wondered why? It's because you know that only that word will do to explain what you are trying to say. The more words you have, the more precise you will be.

By Key Stage 4, you will be able to confidently use words such as atavistic, subservient, supercilious, altruistic, hubristic, caesura and paradox! They might seem like a foreign language to you now. However, think about it – it's part of the English language! It's just words you don't know yet!

Not knowing words can shut you out of conversations and social situations. In English, we love new words – and even though we have an extensive vocabulary, we too keep learning new ones and adding to our repertoire.



Top tip!
Create a vocabulary book with your new words. To aid memory, add an image; put the word in a sentence. This helps to remind you what the word means and how it works grammatically.

DID YOU KNOW

The English Language has 600,000 words – some of which have become obsolete. 171,476 are currently being used. The average teenager is said to use little more than 1000 words in an average day. Often, less. To feel confident with a new word, use it over 30 times. Use it regularly! Be proud of your vocabulary. It helps you to be able to communicate in any situation.

Bedrock will also teach you lots of things about all sorts of things! It's not all about novels. You could be reading about history, famous people, Greek myths, etc. You will expand your knowledge at the same time as expanding the words you know. This year's Year 7 have been working very hard during lockdown on their Bedrock learning. Let's see if you can be as enthusiastic as them! Read down for some of the English Department's favourite words. Do you know what they mean? If not, find out!



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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mrs Griffiths:
mellifluous | Mrs Mahon:
obsequious |
| Mr Dunbar:
cacophony | Miss Beaver:
exquisite |
| Mr Allen:
garrulous | Mrs Steadman:
rambunctious |
| Miss Owen:
serendipity | Mrs Heins:
idiosyncrasy |
| Miss Jones:
irrevocable | Miss White:
eclectic |

Messages from Current Year 7 Students at BBS



Some of our current Year 7 students share their thoughts with you!



Studying English at BBS is a lot different than at primary school because you focus more on topics such as gothic stories, Shakespeare and, once in a while we get to watch a movie related to the topic we are working on. For homework, we get given a booklet with enough work to last a term, you have to complete one a week. At first, it looks like you have loads - but you soon get use to it. Always have a good reading book in your bag because we get to read for 20 minutes every day but not necessarily always in an English lesson. We read our books in most lessons at some point.

Here at BBS, English is key. We learn about all types of different things in English. I especially love the spine-tingling tales we read, and I think you would too! The lessons work quite simply, you sit down in your assigned seat, get your English book, pencil case, reading book, etc. Then all you do is listen to your teacher and take in the things they are telling you! So far, we have learnt about gothic horror, Macbeth, Greek myths and so much more! I really like English at BBS. It's so much fun! (But make sure you have your homework!). Coming from me, I think you should probably do the homework the day it's set, so you don't have to worry about it anymore! Just don't leave it till the last minute (big mistake).



I am writing to you to inform you that there is nothing to worry about. In fact, I was in that position myself. I was worried like crazy about coming to BBS, mithering to myself about how the teachers would be or how strict they were or how hard the work would be - or would it be easy to make new friends or even find my way around? When I arrived, they gave us our lesson slips and mentors to guide us from lesson to lesson for the first two days. By the third day I had come to know my way around the school and if I needed help I would just ask a teacher. I soon settled in and then realised I had worried for nothing. The teachers are all incredibly kind and caring and will use what power they have to help you. The work is more challenging than what you're used to but you have all the help and support around school. I made friends pretty easily and I have even made friends that will stay with me for life. Hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

BBS English -Parents' Information

Unit 1: Autumn Term, Year 7 – The Gothic Genre

What will your child be learning?

English students will be studying the gothic genre through reading classic Victorian short stories including Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Tell-Tale Heart', H G Wells' 'The Signalman'. We will use it as a model of how writers' craft their work for meaning.

We will be introducing the skills of evaluation, reasoning, justifying and analysing. We aim to encourage our scholars to empathise with characters and their motivations; predict the plot; appreciate writers' choices of words, motifs and language features – and structural frameworks.

Your child will also be writing in the style of gothic writers. They will consider typical plot-lines, motifs and language to write creatively.

How you know your child is making progress?

Students will be working in new skills in terms of reading. Therefore, progress will be clearly exemplified through their understanding of terms such as reasoning, language, structure, etc. Their ability to comment on writers' choices will be assessed. We will do base-line testing – and assess and track progress throughout

What will students be assessed on?

Reading skills: students will be assessed their ability to write an essay expressing their ideas about how the writer has presented character, setting, tension and suspense, giving reasons for their ideas and justifying themselves. Final drafts and assessments will be in their 'Best Blue Books'.

Writing skills: students will also be assessed on their creative writing skills in terms of their plot, use of language and structure. We will also be assessing their grammar, punctuation, spelling and how they deploy different sentence types.

Key terms: character, plot, prediction, reasoning, justifying, narrative voice, writer, antagonist, protagonist, tension, language, structure.

Home/School in Partnership:

Ask your child what stories they have been reading;

Question your child on their own reading – ask them to summarise the plot, their views on characters and why they think this; predict the next events.

Further Reading

We have a superb reading list to complement this unit and we are also working with the LRC to promote the genre over the half term. Please do look at reviews of these books. You know your child better than anybody – and which books would be best suited.

- Coraline – Neil Gaiman
- The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Moondial – Helen Cresswell
- Blood Sinister – Celia Rees
- Mister Creecher - Chris Priestley
- Skullduggery Pleasant - Derek Landy
- The Lie Tree - Frances Hardinge
- The Spiderwick Chronicles - T Diterlizzi & H Black
- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase – Joan Aikin
- The Graveyard Book – Chris Ridell
- The Raven poem – Edgar Allen Poe

Homework and Bedrock Learning

Homework booklets which link to our unit of work will be shared with you. There are extension tasks which we encourage students to attempt. Homework can be used to introduce learning, work on spelling and understanding of etymology, etc. Students should also be reading every night before bed.

Students will be working once per fortnight on Bedrock Learning – a software programme which combines knowledge and upskilling of vocabulary. For part of this session, students will also have a class reader.

Research:

Your child could access these websites to deepen their knowledge on the gothic genre/writers:

www.softschools.com/facts/authors/edgar_allan_poe_facts/1374/

<https://www.bbc.com/timelines/zyp72hv>

Movies with gothic elements:

The Witches; The Nightmare Before Christmas; Frankenweenie; Curse of the Wererabbit; Coraline; ParaNorman, The Secret Garden, Dracula, Mrs Perregrine's Home for Peculiar Children.

Year 6 General Reading List

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Dept. We
publish news
and our
students' great
work

- Watership Down – Richard Adams
- The Goldfish Boy – Lisa Thompson
- Peter Pan – JM Barrie
- Boy and Going Solo – Roald Dahl
- The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank
- The Weirdstone of Brisingamen – Alan Garner
- War Horse – Michael Morpurgo
- Stone Cold – Robert Swindells
- His Dark Materials Series – Philip Pullman
- Black Beauty – Anna Sewell
- Cue for Treason – Geoffrey Trease
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
- The Sword in the Stone – T.H. White
- Pig Heart Boy – Marlorie Blackman
- Framed – Frank Cottrell Boyce
- The Garbage King – Elizabeth Laird
- Wonder – R.J. Palacio
- The Box of Delights – John Masefield
- Twelve Minutes to Midnight – Christopher Edge
- A Rag, a Bone and a Hank of Hair – Nicolas Fisk
- Beyond the Bright Sea – Lauren Wolk
- How High the Moon – Karyn Parsons

Gothic Stories:

- Hieroglyphic Tales (1798) – Horace Walpole
- 'The New Mother' (1882) – Lucy Lane Clifford
- Blood Sinister (1997) – Celia Rees
- City of Ghosts (2009) – Bali Rai

Links to Gothic Short Stories:

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow – Washington Irving

(https://www.ibiblio.org/ebooks/Irving/Sleepy/Irving_Sleepy.pdf)

The Haunted House – Charles Dickens

(<https://almabooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/The-Haunted-House.pdf>)

The Tinder Box – Hans Christian Anderson

(<https://andersen.sdu.dk/moocfiles/tinderbox.pdf>)

The Red Room – H.G. Wells

(<https://repositorio.ufsc.br/bitstream/handle/123456789/157356/The%20Red%20Room%20-%20H.G.%20Wells.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>)

Year 6 Gothic Reading List