

11th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Home Learning for Year 9 in English

We have recently issued a username and password for something called Educake. Educake is an online homework and revision system for secondary schools. Students can use it on their PC, tablet or smartphone by going to www.educake.co.uk.

Your child's teacher might set quizzes for homework or classwork in Educake. Quizzes can be retaken as many times as students want to improve their score. Every question is auto marked, and students get instant feedback.

Educake makes revision easy and effective. Students can set themselves quizzes for more practice. They can see how they are doing on every topic and can identify areas to revise based on their progress.

So, does this replace reading home learning?

No, this is in addition to 30 minutes of reading per week completed/recorded on Sparx Reader, which is a programme we are using to record student reading home learning and accuracy. Please note if students do not read carefully this may take longer than 30 minutes. The quicker they read the section of the text, the more questions they have to get correct at the end! The system also adjusts according to reading ability and readers can use the settings to add coloured filters, change fonts and size to make their reading experience more comfortable. It should be noted that this is what we set as a home learning and a minimum for the amount of reading that they should be completing, as reading widely and often is fundamental to success in English.

The Educake quiz should take no longer than 10 - 15 minutes. This will assess their knowledge of key terms or reading comprehension of an extract. Quizzes are multiple choice and if they don't get a question right the first time, they can try again to improve their score. This gives students the opportunity to revise key terms they have learnt already and for us to see and understand students' comprehension. The aim of these activities is to both build resilience and knowledge.

These home learnings can be completed all on one day, or broken down into chunks across the week.

Reading weeks as per the school calendar may mean an adjustment to the usual home learning schedule.

Expectations

We expect your child to complete both home learnings per week and to put in an appropriate level of effort.

If your child is finding a piece of home learning challenging, our first piece of advice is for them to either email or see their class teacher first. This is to encourage them to take responsibility for their learning and gives them an opportunity to share with their teacher what they are finding more difficult. Their class teacher can then offer help, as the home learning is designed to support and prepare them with the level of academic rigour they will encounter in English lessons as they move up through the school. We are approachable and offer support before consequence, but if your child is missing deadlines, H1 and H2 detentions will be issued and students should take responsibility for managing their studies.

Yours faithfully

Miss Louise McMahon
Head of English