**Smithycroft Secondary School - Higher English**

**Exam Date: Monday 4th May 2020**

***Parent/Carer Guide - Supporting your Child in the Senior Phase***

**Aims of the Course:**

This course will help your child to develop their skills in the areas of Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening– all important skills for learning, life and work.

**Qualifications:**

* Successful completion of the course, unit assessment and exam will mean that your child will achieve an A-D grade. Generally, the pattern is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Band** | **Percentage** |
| **A** | **1** | 85%+ |
| **A** | **2** | 70%+ |
| **B** | **3** | 65%+ |
| **B** | **4** | 60%+ |
| **C** | **5** | 55%+ |
| **C** | **6** | 50%+ |
| **D** | **7** | 40%+ |
| **No award** | **8** | <40% |

**The Exam**

The final exam is made up of the following components:

* **Portfolio** (30 marks)
  + Two essays – one of a *BROADLY DISCURSIVE* nature, one of a *BROADLY* *CREATIVE*.
  + These are independent pieces of work and the SQA have published guidance with regards to the levels of support students are permitted to receive – please find attached to this letter.
* **Paper 1: RUAE** *– Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation* (30 marks)
  + Completing answers to questions on an unseen non-fiction passage.
* **Paper 2: Critical Reading** (40 marks)
  + Writing one critical essay from a choice of genres, namely: Drama; Prose; Poetry and Media
  + Answering Textual Analysis questions on a Scottish Set Text studied during the year.

**Portfolio: Guidance**

|  |
| --- |
| **It is acceptable** for a teacher or lecturer to provide:   * an initial discussion with the candidate on the selection of a topic, theme, genre, leading to an outline plan * written or oral feedback on **one draft** of writing |
| **It is not acceptable** for a teacher or lecturer to provide:   * model answers which are specific to a candidate’s task * specific advice on how to re-phrase wording * key ideas, or a specific structure or plan * corrections of errors in spelling and punctuation * feedback on more than one draft of writing |

**How can I help?**

You can help your child take responsibility for learning and develop high expectations of him/herself by:

* ***Encouraging*** *them to study from their notes and use revision strategies designed to help them learn particular topics in more depth – FOCUS on 1.* ***RUAE*** *techniques, 2.How to write* ***Critical Essays*** *(revising key quotes) 3.* ***Scottish Text*** *– revision of key incidents and how key themes are developed (also revising key quotes).*
* ***Ensuring*** *all homework tasks are completed fully, on time and to a high standard. Refer to Show My Homework for weekly details.*
* ***Promoting*** *additional independent reading especially of quality newspapers from an online or printed source – the English Department are delighted to advise students with this.*
* ***Encouraging*** *them to discuss their English assessment marks and the targets that have been set from their work.*

At Smithycroft, the English department is aspirational and encourages students to challenge themselves to realise their potential. However, it is important to note that the Higher English course places significant demands on students in terms of academic challenge. A high degree of personal commitment to both revision and consolidation of learning out with the classroom is crucial.

**Useful sites:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Scottish Set Text Revision -** [**https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmcrd2p**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmcrd2p)  **Past Papers -** [**https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=English&level=H**](https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=English&level=H)  **RUAE tips -** [**https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcarters4/reading-for-ruae/**](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcarters4/reading-for-ruae/)**H** |