

Kinross High School: Faculty of English & Literacy

S3 Success Guide

When studying English, pupils are expected to actively work on developing their skills through class work, homework tasks, and their own personal reading and research.

Pupils focus on building confidence with reading, writing, talking and listening. The following online resources are available:

- PressReader (access to a wide range of quality articles): www.pressreader.com
- BBC Bitesize (resources to support the BGE course): www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects

Supporting Reading

Reading at home is the best ways to support learners in expanding their knowledge of language, vocabulary and skills in reading. At home you can:

- Encourage pupils to read – aim for an hour and a half a week. This will make a HUGE difference.
- Encourage pupils to read quality non-fiction writing (broadsheet newspaper articles).
- Access the library to give pupils the opportunity to read a range of texts. Chat with library staff for recommendations – they are the experts!
- Encourage pupils to use online dictionaries to widen vocabulary and develop understanding – www.meriam-webster.com/word-of-the-day
- Encourage pupils to check out online resources:
 - Scottish Book Trust – take part in “reading lunches”, (which motivate pupils to enjoy a good read while eating their lunch), watch online clips of recommended books, and become part of a virtual book club.
 - The Literacy Trust – here you can find competitions, reading challenges and recommended texts, both written and audio.
- Access free online written and audio texts:
 - Booktrust.org.uk
 - Audible UK
- Access free online talks on various educational topics at: ed.ted.com. Pupils use ‘Ted Talks’ in class as a method of enhancing their listening skills. At home, it can be used to further develop these skills, or as preparation for discursive writing or talk tasks.

Supporting Writing

To support developing creative writing skills for the N5 Writing Folio in S4, pupils should focus on the golden rule – SHOW don’t TELL. At home you can:

- Encourage pupils to focus on using the senses, imagery and a wide and varied vocabulary to make writing vivid and interesting for the reader.
- Access the website – youngwriters.co.uk. Here you will find poetry and short story competitions throughout the year, which could lead to prizes and publication.

To support discursive writing skills for the N5 Writing Folio in S4, pupils must ensure their ideas are well-research and well-structured. At home you can:

- Discourage use of Wikipedia for research – information cannot be verified

To support personal reflective skills, pupils must write about their experiences, including thoughts, feelings and a sense of reflection. At home you can:

- Encourage use of activities to develop writing:
 - ✓ Blogger.com – a website with access to free materials for pupils creating their own online blogs about themselves.
- Encourage pupils to keep a diary of their daily or weekly activities, including thoughts, feelings and reflections.

To support language and grammar skills for the N5 Writing Folio in S4, at home you can:

- Encourage pupils to always check over work carefully. Pupils must self-assess their writing before submission and this is an important element of developing writing skills.
- Pupils are familiar with 'Green Pen Marking' in class as a regular means of self-assessing, peer-assessing and evaluating their work: proof-reading at home will further support this.
- Websites that focus on improving accuracy in writing include:

www.youtube.com/user/TheGrammarGirl

www.ictgames.com/literacy.html

www.sentenceplay.co.uk/index.htm

Steps for Success

- Come to class ready to learn with all resources
- If absent, catch up on any missed work – access resources on Google Classroom
- Find a quiet place to complete homework and study
- Use a diary or phone calendar to record homework and deadlines
- Use feedback, both written and verbal, to identify next steps on how to make progress
- Speak to your teacher about any queries or for more one to one support at lunchtimes and after school
- Take part in a trip. The English Department offer a variety of opportunities throughout the year. These have included visits to the Edinburgh Book Festival, theatre trips and a residential trip to Stratford.

Looking Ahead

For information on the format and skills developed in National 4& 5 English, please check out the following links to the SQA website:

[N4 English](#) – a course overview, outline of skills developed and format of unit assessments

[N5 English](#) – a course overview, outline of skills developed, format of coursework and N5 exam.

[SQA past papers](#) – a selection of past papers and marking schemes, which enhance reading and writing skills, independent study skills and help prepare pupils for the N5 exam.