

English Department Newsletter July 2018

Hello

Welcome to the English Department Newsletter. You will find that it includes some optional tasks for boys to complete during the summer holidays.

He can complete as many as he feels able to, but it would be very helpful preparation for the new term, if your son could **research the writer Arthur Conan Doyle and his Sherlock Holmes novel: The Hound of the Baskervilles**, before we begin reading this text in September.

This late 19th Century novel is a great story, but is quite an aspirational read. However, it will set up your son nicely for the challenging but inclusive English curriculum we have planned for him at BWSfB.

As you may be aware, particularly if you have older children who have sat the new English GCSE specifications, these exams now feature texts written in the 19th Century. Therefore an early grounding in the vocabulary, historical and cultural references within these texts is important if boys are to reach their potential later. We clearly want to ensure that these more challenging texts are accessible and enjoyable for all our boys and that they are not 'turned off' at the beginning of their secondary school experience.



Optional summer tasks:

What was happening during the 19th Century (Victorian era) in the following?

1. Science/Technology
2. Politics
3. Entertainment
4. Employment
5. Britain
6. Crime
7. Religion
8. Britain and its Empire
9. The role of Women

Stretch and challenge:

1. The Sherlock Holmes Conundrum: What is the difference between deductive and inductive reasoning?
2. Why did Conan Doyle kill off the character of Sherlock Holmes despite his huge popularity?

3. How many film and TV adaptations/versions are there of the novel, The Hound of the Baskervilles? Can you name them all?

Also: over the summer try to make sure you are familiar with the correct spelling of these commonly used words -

a lot
 acceptable
 achieve
 again
 always
 argument
 basically
 because
 beginning
 believe
 caught
 coming
 committed
 completely
 decided
 definitely
 different
 disappoint
 embarrass
 environment

experience
 friend
 generally
 happened
 immediately
 independent
 interesting
 knowledge
 government
 necessary
 occasionally
 Receive
 recommend
 relevant
 remember
 sensible
 separate
 something
 success
 through

tried
 until
 would

