



# Brine Leas School

An Academy

Believe, Learn, Succeed

September 2018

## Re: Year 7 Curriculum Information – English

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Reading:

For best progress in English, we recommend 20 minutes of reading each day – the experience of reading regularly is vital to your child succeeding in English. The new GCSE exams demand a reading age of a minimum of 16 to gain full access to the paper– as a result, it is more crucial than ever that your child practices reading.

Suitable reading suggestions can be found here:

<http://brineleas.cheshire.sch.uk/Docs/English/ReadingListY7.pdf>

Class readers will be set by teachers to complement the topics studied in class, but students should also read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction chosen independently. As the new GCSE syllabus includes a pre-20<sup>th</sup> century text, students should try to experience the language and style of classic works as well as teen fiction.

From the start of Year 7 students are involved in the Accelerated Reader scheme – they should be regularly (approximately once a fortnight) taking a quiz on the books they have read to support their inference and understanding. This can be accessed from home via the school VLE – simply scroll down to “Take a Quiz”.

*Username: first letter of first name + 4 letters of surname. For example: Jenny Smith would be ‘JSMIT’*

*Password: English class. For example: 7zen2*

As a parent, you can also log in to Accelerated Reader via ‘Home Connect’ and monitor your child’s progress via email alert. The same login is used and details are available on ‘My Child at School’. The full information can be found here:

<http://brineleas.cheshire.sch.uk/Docs/English/HowToUseAccRead.pdf>

To provide extra support, some students are are enrolled in Lexia Strategies. This has been proven to help close the gap for students with a reading age that is below chronological age (e.g. if your child is 11 and has a reading age of 10, it can help close the gap). It is used in class once a fortnight but best results are shown through regular use – 20 minutes, three times a fortnight. This could be completed instead of reading on some days. It is accessed on the VLE as above – click on “Lexia Strategies”.

*Username: Brine Leas ICT username. For example: Jenny Smith would be ‘23jennsmith’*

*Password: Read1 (Case sensitive)*

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## Setting Process:

The English department completes internal testing both at the start of Year 7 (before October half term) and at the end of each year to ensure that your child is best placed to learn in English. The sets are determined by a range of factors, including but not limited to: Year 7 exam scores (in September and the summer), end of unit assessments in Progress Books, Reading Age tests (STAR and Hodder), target grades, predicted grades, standard of class and homework, and teacher assessment. All the data, following assessment, is available for you to view on 'My Child at School.'

Effort and attitude to work will enable students to progress and reach their potential in all sets; all students now sit the same exams in Literature and Language at the end of Year 11 as there are no longer tiered exams in English. Effort alone is not a criteria for setting – we must consider attainment and potential when placing students in the most appropriate set and we expect all students in all groups to work to the best of their ability.

Further information on this process can be found here:

<http://brineleas.cheshire.sch.uk/Docs/English/SettingPolicyEng.pdf>

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me on the school number.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Sharman  
Head of English  
ASN/SJ/SDD