

Larbert High School  
Carrongrange Avenue  
Stenhousemuir  
Larbert  
FK5 3BL  
T: (01324) 554233 / F: (01324) 503551  
E: larberthighschool@falkirk.gov.uk  
W: www.larberthigh.com



**Falkirk Council**  
**Children's Services**

**Rector: Jon Reid**

23 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am taking this opportunity to write to you before the Easter break as your child will be heading into a busy period of exam preparation. It is my experience that parents are often looking for advice on how their child can best revise and prepare for the upcoming exams.

### **National 5 and Higher English**

#### **Reading for Understanding, Analysis & Evaluation**

Past papers are an option but these are fairly new exams pupils are limited to only a few papers. Simple tasks pupils can undertake (with you if you wish):

- On Twitter the @LHS\_English account posts articles and tasks using the hashtag #N5HRUAE. You could attempt the task (which is usually straightforward like summarising or using their own words) with your child.
- There is also an opportunity on our Supported Study Google Classroom pages to attempt these short tasks and get feedback. The N5 code is 373gzjs and the Higher code is qts35q
- When watching the news, ask your child to put stories in their own words or make them jot it down without repeating the words from the broadcast.
- SCHOLAR has an extensive array of exercises for all aspects of the course. Parents can also log in.
- Read journalism from broadsheet newspapers (not tabloids), quality magazines or websites and non-fiction. There is no substitute for reading. Pupils often struggle with this part of the course because they don't read enough quality non-fiction so the vocabulary and style can confound them before they begin!
- Easter School is focusing on this paper. There are sessions on Higher & N5 RUAE running on each Tuesday session.
- In terms of revision textbooks, I would suggest choosing carefully as many only look at specific Textual Analysis texts. Also, many revision books now require separate answer booklets. There is a wide range available on Amazon so if you do wish to buy a book, I would suggest you child either looks at the book in the shop or uses the 'look inside' function on Amazon to see if it's relevant to their needs.



**Director: Robert Naylor**

Sealock House  
2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB  
T: (01324) 506600  
F: (01324) 506601

Email: [director.childrenservices@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:director.childrenservices@falkirk.gov.uk)

## **Critical Reading**

There is no one size fits all for this paper. Each class is following a unique course.

- Most teachers, if not all, are using Google Classroom or Edmodo. Your child will have a code that provides them access. They should ask their teacher if they don't. You can also have this code if you would like to support your child by looking at the resources.
- Reading their novels or plays can help you discuss what they've learned but ask them about it. Feel free to test them! For this paper, students have to write an essay on one text and answer questions on their Scottish text. Pupils can memorise quotations but that's it: they should not memorise essays. English is a test of skills rather than memory. They are being tested on their ability to apply their skills and knowledge in a certain context.
- BBC Bitesize has support and tests for the Scottish Textual Analysis component.

## **Advanced Higher**

### **Coursework**

This course is unique in that it's the only English course which has coursework worth more than the exam. Therefore it is very important pupils take the time to continuing working on their Dissertations and Writing Folios. By all means, you could read and discuss this work with them. Dissertations will be sent away immediately after the Easter holidays so I would recommend these essays being completed before Easter so they can focus on their other parts of the course.

### **Examination**

Students have to write an essay on both Shakespeare texts *or* both Dickens' texts so pupils should ensure they are fully up-to-date and know them thoroughly. Practising the new skill of writing about two texts in one essay needs to be honed. Textual Analysis requires writing a response to an unseen text. This can be done with any unseen text and using old Advanced Higher papers can help but they can be given a pack to practice with. Timing themselves annotating will help. Discussing texts with them can also allow you to be involved too.

Thank you for reading this letter. I hope this has helped offer you some practical advice on how to support your child through this stressful period. You are not expected to do all of these things and they are just intended to help you support your child.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish your child all the very best in the forthcoming examinations.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S.A. Leach  
Principal Teacher of English, Media and Literacy