



Y8 English Chronicle

Welcome back to English at
The Regis School



Working together to support your child in English

Here at The Regis School, the English department would like to welcome you and your child to the next stage of their English learning. Throughout Year 8, your child will continue to develop new and exciting skills in English by reading a range of engaging and challenging texts and writing creatively in a range of genres. Each term we will publish a newsletter to help you to support your child in their English lessons. We will let you know what we are studying in class and how you can help your child at home with suggested reading lists and activities that will support the learning in the classroom.

Great titles to read at home that we use in our topic:

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

The Woman in Black by Susan Hill

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

Great movies to watch at home:

The Woman in Black

The Others

Year 8 Autumn Term

'Ghosts and Gothic'.

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Ghosts and Gothic is an introduction and study over two half terms to the literary world of the 'Gothic'. We begin by considering the genre of ghostly stories and establishing through a range of art, literature and fiction, the ingredients that make up the Gothic genre.

We then move onto reading a range of pre 19th Century gothic fiction text extracts. From classics such as *Dracula* by Bram Stoker to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Students will reflect and analyse how the main protagonists are presented and compare how *Dracula* and the Monster in *Frankenstein* meet the expected conventions of the Gothic genre.

As a whole class, your child will then be supported to read and understand more modern gothic fiction in *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill. Chapter by chapter students will consider the characters, setting and story; learning to analyse how different facets of the Gothic genre are presented and their effect on the reader.

Finally your child will demonstrate their understanding of the Gothic genre by writing creatively in the style.

What activities could you do at home to help?

Reading is great!

Greater readers become greater writers...

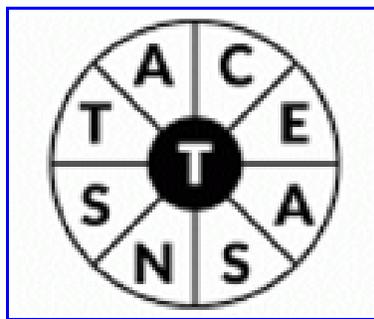
At The Regis School we know that reading is really important. Regular reading both privately and aloud will really help your child's confidence. We ask that you support our teachers by encouraging your child to read at home. In school, your child will read as part of their English lessons and around the whole school during period 5 each day as part of our 'Read to Succeed' program. It would be great if you could provide a quiet space and time at home for reading. Your child can read alone, but would also benefit from reading with an adult or sibling. We suggest that they read for 20 minutes three times a week as a minimum.

Your child's English teacher is always on hand to recommend some great new reads, and our librarians have a huge collection that your child can borrow from.

Ever thought about puzzles?

Word puzzles are great for developing reading and writing.

Playing word games each week such as Scrabble or doing crosswords is a great way to support your child. Why not try the word wheel below? How many words of three or more letters can you find?



What could you watch?

Reading skills are not just developed in a book...

Watch then discuss a television program with your child. Explore what they liked and what they didn't.

Encouraging your child to comment verbally, or write down responses is a great way of developing your child's English skills. Perhaps they could write a review of a performance on 'Strictly Come Dancing' or create and make their own recipe inspired by 'The Great British Bake Off'.

English comes in all shapes and sizes.

For reluctant readers, it does not have to be an entire novel yet...

Newspapers, magazines and leaflets all provide valuable reading material. Perhaps your child loves football? They could read the match reports from the newspaper with you on a Sunday. Maybe they love horses or fishing? There are many great resource books in libraries and lots of magazines to choose from. Perhaps they love films? You could read different reviews together of the film after you have seen it. All these activities will make reading fun – and almost not feel like reading at all!