

Secondary School

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Dear Parents,

Mid Year Report - English Department

Before January passes far too quickly into February, and the moment becomes lost, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy 2011. Without doubt the New Year and second term has started with the same enthused effort and pace of learning that it was before the holidays. The English Department was kept extremely busy last term by the creative and analytical output of all students and it seems that this term promises much the same successful productivity. As students begin once again to read their way through numerous class novels and a wide range of shorter texts, it is evident that more than most have arrived back to their desks refreshed and eager for their missed language and literary analysis. The English Department looks forward to the challenge our students bring and wouldn't have it any other way.

Last term was indeed a busy one despite, or because of, the numerous holidays we seemed to have. Between the breaks though, the English Department forwarded Literacy Week in October and in November arranged for more than half the Secondary school the opportunity to see Macbeth. At the same time of course it was business as usual in terms of essay drafting, writing and marking in preparation for the culminating Mid Year Exams just before Christmas. The results of these exams were very promising indeed. Pleasingly nearly everyone showed improved skills and analysis proves that our KS3 performance continues to exceed the national standard in the UK and surpass our own much higher targets at this stage. Such results make the transition from KS3 to KS4 (year 9 to IGCSE) an exciting prospect as many students will do very well indeed should they stay with us.

During the December rush of revision and cheer we said a temporary goodbye to Miss Fiona Lewis who has left us until April to go on maternity leave.

At present our Year 11 and Year 13 students prepare themselves for their Mocks and soon after will spend the majority of their time studying exam texts and practicing techniques needed for the forthcoming examination session. Amidst this academic fervor is the writing and redrafting of coursework which is, I am sure, in hand. Much is left to do and I hope, especially so for our Year 11 students, that revision doesn't stop when the Mock Exams are over. A continued effort to sustain a managed revision schedule will ensure the success that we expect from them and the developing success the English Department has earned over the past two years.

In March we have our second English focused week entitled Book Week during which students will participate in a variety of book reading activities and sponsored reading. More Reading Champions will be gently coerced to present a reading or two in the library. We also look forward to World Spelling Day, more House Competitions where the trophies *The BISI Best Poet of the Year* and *Best Young Writer of the Year* can be won. Another visit to the theatre is also anticipated.

Once again I would like to thank you for your continued support and remind you not to hesitate in contacting me should you have any queries, questions or concerns regarding the study of English here at the British International School, Istanbul.

Yours faithfully,

Russell Gunnell