

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience. The English Department are continuing to work very hard to ensure that your son's learning needs are catered for in this uncertain time.

At Norlington our curriculum is structured around six-week cycles. At the time of school closures, your son would have been in Cycle 4. After Easter, your son will be completing Cycles 5 and 6. For each Cycle, there are clearly marked lesson and resources folders for each unit of work, as well as teacher folders that may be updated with extra tailored resources or guidelines. These resources are accessible in the [Norlington Portal](#).

We encourage students to be active in their learning and in English we are making this possible by using web services such as Google Classroom and Seneca Learning. The learning platforms will enable students to interact with each other sharing ideas and resources, as well as interact with teacher feedback, where appropriate.

For Years 7, 8 and 9 students, work is provided for Cycles 4 to 6 in weekly folders.

For Year 10 students, work is provided that covers the GCSE courses of English Literature and English Language.

For Year 12 students, work is provided that covers the A Level English Literature course.

We have tried to make English accessible by providing lessons and resources in the formats of PDF, PowerPoint and Microsoft Word.

Please continue to access our English curriculum for recommended reading books and text books. Also, if you have access to the Norlington Portal you will be able to access free reading and audio material in the folder labelled 'Free e-books & Audio books'.

We understand that there might be circumstances that make it difficult for the boys to complete work. We are here to support and assist where possible. Therefore, if you have any English related concerns regarding the work set or your son's ability to complete the work, please feel free to email your son's teacher or myself directly at lbiney@norlington.school

If you have any non-English related issues such as logging in or forgotten passwords please email the school directly at student@norlington.school

Thank you again for your patience.

Warm regards,

The English Department

*Revision work can still be accessed by Year 11 and Year 13 students

FAQ Frequently Asked Questions about accessing English resources from Norlington Portal

My son doesn't have either their exercise book or the novel/short story/poems/play that they are studying, what can they do?

There are lesson and resources folders for each unit of work. Some of these resources will include specific texts so that you don't miss out. For Years 8 to 10 there are teacher folders that may be updated with extra tailored resources or guidelines accessible in the Norlington Portal.

There's a lot of stuff there, do they have to do all of it?

We've made clear the expectations for all of our students. This does not mean that there is undue pressure on you to do everything.

We would be expecting our Years 9, 10 and 12 students to be thoroughly engaging with the resources as they will be focusing on GCSE and A Level preparation in the next academic year.

There's a lot of stuff there, where do they start?

We've made clear guidelines for all year groups that detail the units of work and further details on resources. It's a good place to start before looking into the unit folders. For Years 7 to 9 lessons are placed in labelled weekly folders for ease. For Years 10 and 12 lessons are sequenced according to the unit.

Do they have to submit work, and will they receive feedback?

As a core subject, we would be expecting our Years 9, 10 and 12 students to be thoroughly engaging with the resources as they focus on GCSE and A Level preparation.

With learning platforms such as Google Classroom and Seneca there is an opportunity for tasks to be given out and work to be submitted. Feedback will be given where appropriate and may not always be individual. We will endeavour to give feedback as promptly as we can.

They've got siblings at home and/or there isn't a quiet space to work how can they get the work done?

We totally understand that for some of our students this is going to be hard. We ask that they engage with this work at a pace that is suitable for them – this could mean weekly instead of daily.

Will I need Microsoft Office to access the resources?

Not necessarily. We have duplicated our resources into PDFs for easy access in terms of viewing and printing – however, you will not be able to type directly onto it.

What if the computer breaks down, and they don't have their book, how should they complete the work?

Use a writing pad (you might be able to get this from a local supermarket), or a mobile phone could be used to make notes (there is an already installed Notes app). You can also contact the school where we will be able to send out a work booklet if that is helpful.

Can I just use websites and YouTube videos instead of the work you have provided?

Yes, you can use these as *additional* resources. Remember that the exam board for GCSE and A Level English Literature is AQA and for GCSE English Language the exam board is Edexcel. So, make sure that additional resources use criteria for these exam boards. For Years 10 and 12, your teachers **will need to see evidence of this work when you come back as even the additional resources will have practice assessments and revision tasks that will need feedback.**

I think that my son will race through the work!

The English Department have been working hard and will continue to be working hard to deliver lessons and resources that reflect the range of our broad, interactive and challenging curriculum. Additional weekly lessons are within in each unit. It is important to encourage your son to take their time with the units – try to get them see this as a marathon and not a sprint!

How does my son get onto the learning platforms such as Google Classroom and Seneca?

Teachers have sent out emails with clear instructions. If you have misplaced the email please email at lbiney@norlington.school for support with the following details:

- Your son's name
- Your son's class
- Your son's teacher

Interaction with teachers on the learning platforms will be active **after** the Easter Holidays and **during** term time.