



St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School

Headteacher Mrs B A McLaughlin

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Dear Parent/Carers,

As this is the start of a new year, we wanted to make you aware of some changes in English to the way home learning is set, marked and monitored for your children in English.

Every week work will be set on the English classes Google Classroom page. This will be a two-part home learning:

- 1) Bedrock vocabulary quizzing
- 2) Reading and writing challenges

Bedrock was launched last year in the school and is an online programme that supports students in gaining better understanding of vocabulary, word origins, word families, tips to enable them to spell more accurately and to understand how to decode words when they come across unfamiliar words in texts. I'm sure you will appreciate that this is an excellent programme that will benefit them in English, but also across every subject that they take. The expectation is that over a two-week period, students will do 4 quizzes and teachers will be able to check that this has been done. The information learnt in the quizzes is also continuously used in lessons.

The reading and writing challenges will be a weekly home learning with the task and resources for the task online. All students will have access to computers at school to allow them to complete the home learning, if it is not possible to do this at home. One week, they will receive a reading home learning and the next week it will be a writing home learning. The tasks set vary in difficulty and have been set specifically by the teachers in the department to support and consolidate learning that has been taking place in class. We will check the students understanding and completion of this work by using multiple choice quizzes in class and peer assessment and verbal feedback.

The home learning is designed to:

- Consolidate understanding of work undertaken in class
- Challenge students to read and write regularly in their own time
- Allow students to understand that learning is continuous and purposeful practice without a teacher will help them understand if they know how to approach different tasks (they will of course be able to ask their teachers to further explain the work if needed)
- Support students in becoming independent learners
- Allow students to form excellent self-study and revision habits

We look forward to your support in home learning being completed. Students that go above and beyond in their home learning will be rewarded and students that do not complete home learning will be sanctioned with a faculty detention, where they will have time to complete the home learning missed. As a faculty and school, we want to support your child to learn effectively,

take pride in their work and to recognise that hard work and effort leads to excellent achievement and a sense of self-satisfaction and pride. We look forward to seeing the excellent quality in the home learning books.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss this, please contact me at the school.
Yours sincerely,

Miss S Strachan
Leader of English and Drama