

## Year 11 into 12 Bridging the Gap

### Summer Work for 2020 Entry



**St Philip Howard**  
SIXTH FORM  
*Learn, Grow, Achieve*

We want you to be really successful and what it takes to be successful at GCSEs is different from being successful at A-Levels. Although you have fewer subjects there are different skills at A-Level and the volume of work is greater because the depth and detail is more demanding.

Bridging the Gap Work will reassure you that the subject you have selected is for you, or allow you time to change your choice of subject at enrolment, as long as there is space and you meet the entry criteria. We want you to study a course that interests you and you are sufficiently qualified to study.

**Subject: English Language**

**Head of Subject: Mrs A Brogan**

#### **Aim of Bridging Work:**

To familiarise students with assessment objectives, course aims, course content and topics for English language at A level.

The key principles, issues and concepts that underpin the course will build on and develop the important language skills that you learnt at GCSE. By reflecting on your own reading and writing experiences as a starting point, you will be prepared for the different skills that you will be assessed on.

Important skills such as the ability to discuss, debate and analyse, to read and understand texts, and to write in a variety of forms for different purposes will be explored. You will build on these skills in a number of ways, for example, you will produce some original writing based on storytelling, persuading or informing, and you will read and explore different text types. In addition you will learn a range of different skills to help you describe and analyse language, and you will acquire an analytical toolkit that will enable you explore and explain any text.

The bridging work will introduce the following:

- 1) Language levels
- 2) Subject terminology
- 3) Textual variety
- 4) Language analysis

#### **Equipment List :**

Ring Bind folder  
Highlighters  
Lined A4 paper

#### **Textbook(s) for September:**

English Language Student Book  
Cambridge Press  
Giovanelli, Ives, Keen et al  
ISBN 978-1-107-46562-6

#### **Reading List:**

To be confirmed

## Tasks

### May 11<sup>th</sup> Language and Gender

#### 1. Gender Terminology

Match the term to the correct definition.

Address terms	Using 'ess' or 'ette' on the ends of words to make them 'feminine' – e.g. actor/actress.
Diminutive suffixes	We have to say 'lady (or woman/female) doctor' because people assume doctors are men. Equally, 'male nurse' is needed, because nurses are taken to be female.
Generic terms	Men are usually only 'Mr', whereas women can be 'Mrs', 'Ms' or 'Miss' – why doesn't men's marital status matter for their names?
Lexical asymmetry	Terms for women often derive from items of food, clothing or animals.
Marked terms	Pairs of words which seem to be equal (e.g. sir/madam) often are not, with the female term having been degraded in some way.
Semantic fields	'Man' and 'he' are used to mean all people e.g. 'man breastfeeds his young'; 'a customer may complain to the manager if he is not satisfied'.

#### 2. Gender stereotypes

Copy and fill in the grid below. Don't be afraid to go for as many stereotypes as possible. Think of drinks, clothes, hobbies or interests if you're stuck.

Male	Female
blue football	pink netball

#### 3. Gender connotations

Look at the words in the table below. For each one, write down the connotations (what these words 'feel' like or suggest to you). What do you notice?

Male word	Female word
master	mistress
lord	lady
doctor*	lady doctor*
male nurse*	nurse*

#### 4. Look at the four words marked with an asterisk: what do you think about these two pairs?

## 5. Generalisations

Below are a few generalisations about gender and language.

Read the statements and write down whether you think each one is true, and why. What evidence did you use to come to this conclusion?

### Discussion statements:

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- a) Women talk more than men.
- b) Girls are better at reading and writing than boys.
- c) English is a sexist language.
- d) Men swear more than women.