

# Thomas Hardy Sixth Form

## Newsletter 5— English and MFL Special



Dear Student

Welcome to the last newsletter publication before we break for the Christmas holidays. It is an English and Modern Foreign Language special. If you would like further information please email [sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net).

Remember the deadline for online applications is 22nd January 2021. You can register and make an application [here](#).

The Sixth Form Team would like to wish you all a very merry and festive Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021.

### Media Studies

#### What is media studies?

Media Studies is concerned with analysing how texts are constructed to achieve a variety of aims. We look at a wide variety of texts from newspapers to marketing campaigns and deconstruct what the key elements of each specific text are. We explore how different groups are represented and how these images have been constructed and why. The media is changing rapidly and has numerous different forces pressurising it for their own agendas so it essential the students can discuss current ideas about the media like the future of the BBC or how COVID has been represented in the press.

### English Literature

#### Do all classes study the same texts?

The texts that you study will depend on the English teachers for that option block. In English Literature, classes study an extensive variety of texts for both exams and coursework. The coursework texts must be taken from the post-1900s and could include anything from popular plays and fiction to established authors. At the moment there are three main study areas that we cover in preparation for the exams: the Gothic, Women in Literature and American Literature 1880 -1940. By the end of the course you'll have an exceptional understanding of one of these topic areas.

#### How similar is the A level to GCSE English Language?

A Level English Language enables you to further develop your analytical skills. Pre-reading of set fictional texts is still not required. Instead, you'll expand your knowledge of a variety of topics that influence language production such as gender, power, technology, diversity and children's acquisition. The A Level exams pose holistic, essay questions as opposed to the several, short and quick format of GCSE reading questions followed by a creative writing task. Unlike GCSE, the A Level features two pieces of coursework (worth 20%): an original writing task and language investigation providing opportunities to write creatively and explore linguistic areas of personal interest.

## Modern Foreign Languages—What is it like compared to GCSE?

### French/Spanish

The lesson structure is quite similar to GCSE but in greater depth, with all skills (reading, listening, speaking and writing) covered. The topics will be different and will focus more on the situation in the Hispanic/French world, these typically include subjects with a wide discussion around them and which will, therefore, help you to fully improve and demonstrate your French/Spanish skills when discussing them in both speaking and writing. There will be a full re-cap of all the tenses at the start of year 12 to get your grammar back up to speed. If you enjoyed French/Spanish at GCSE, it is an opportunity to get to know the French/Hispanic world in great depth.

### Classical Civilisation

#### I haven't studied Classical Civilisation before. Does that matter?

No. All we ask is that students have a curiosity to learn more about Ancient Greece and Rome. We will cover a wide variety of texts and topics. These include tragic drama, comedy, poetry, ancient history, philosophy, art, sculpture and, of course, myths about heroes like Achilles and gods like Athena. We do not assume that you have any prior knowledge of the subject and we use English translations. All you need is an enthusiasm for learning more about ancient civilisations. You may not have much knowledge at the beginning, but by the end of year 13 you will be an expert!

### Modern Foreign Languages

#### Is all the teaching in French/Spanish?

Yes! The primary means of communication between teacher and students, student and teacher and student and student will be the target language. You need to be prepared to make every effort to speak in French/Spanish at all times, including asking for clarification if you have not understood something. You will find that you will make rapid progress in your speaking skills and your aural comprehension, even if it seems daunting at first, and that confidence will quickly come.

For all enquiries please email the [Sixth Form Team](mailto:sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net) (sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net)

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