Year 8 – English

Year 8	Topic	Assessment	What parents can do to support
Term 1 Autumn Term	Love and conflict in 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare. Students will explore these key themes in the play by exploring character, events, form and the language used by the great playwright.	Their reading skills will be tested through an analysis of an extract from the play and then answering a question on the theme of love or conflict and how it is presented throughout the entire play. Their written skills will be tested through their writing of a travel blog in which they will have to show an understanding of writing for the correct audience, purpose and form as well as accuracy in their use of SPAG	Please support by encouraging your child to talk about the play and characters with you. Explore videos and synopsis on the web or even invest in a version of the play for yourself – this could be a graphic novel or a narrative retelling of the plot. Explore blogs (especially travel blogs) with them and perhaps encourage them to start on of their own about R and J/ somewhere of interest to them. SPAG accuracy can be improved though online activities and learning spelling rules.
Term 2	The power of words – don't judge me! The power of poetry as a protest	Students will study spoken language and apply what they have learned to their own lives and uses of language. We will cover such topics as slang, accent, dialect and discuss the prejudices that others might form based on the way that they speak. They will then write an editorial entitled 'Using slang stops you being successful in life.' They will be assessed on their uses of vocabulary and structure in their writing. The students will also explore poetry as a form of protest in society. They will explore such luminaries as Heaney, Auden and lesser known poets such as Soyinka. The unit will finish with a comparison of two poems.	Encourage them to explore the wealth of accents and dialects in the UK and how you adapt your language depending on where you are and to whom you are speaking. Explore the social history of the poems and poets with your child and the issues raised within them. Link perhaps to BLM and the recent protests in America linked to race and prejudice.
Term 3	The power of words: Oratory and storytelling	In this unit, the students will explore some of the most influential speeches and orators in history. They will explore the features that make the speeches powerful as well as the context surrounding their delivery. The final part of the unit will focus on Dahl's short story – 'The Landlady' and will focus on preparing the students to craft their narrative writing.	Watch the speeches online or read transcripts together. Practice using persuasive devices together – perhaps make a game of it – can you persuade them to do the dishes? Get up an hour later? Hold mini debates together to practice crafting an argument and speaking aloud. Discuss 'The Landlady' with them and encourage them to discuss not only the plot but also their impression of the characters and events.

Helpful Books / Study Materials

Please encourage your child to read as many different types of literature as possible; newspapers, books, graphic novels, poetry and autobiographies. All help! You could inspire writing tasks such as short stories about weekends or holidays and poems about the family or places you have visited. You can also use a random image to inspire them to write.

Useful websites

BBC Bitesize: www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise