English Language– Preparation for sixth form

Congratulation on picking the best A Level course there is! Language is power and by studying this course you will learn just how powerful and evolutionary our language is today and has been, since mankind first emerged.

We hope this gives you some guidance as how best to prepare yourself for studying English Language A' Level.

You must complete every section of the *compulsory* work needed to support your transition into English Language A' level, it is also highly recommended that you complete the *suggested* preparation work. Your new staff will like to see this at the start of your course.

			Completed
Compulsory preparation work	GCSE revision	Your Y11 knowledge is essential in supporting your transition to A level. In fact much of you A Level work will build on GCSE knowledge. Please work on: • The language papers (link below) and focus particularly on Q.4 and Q.5.The skills of language analysis, comparison, evaluation and writing (creative and transactional-to argue and persuade) are all skills you need for the A level course https://learnkes.ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk/course/view.php?id=1090#section-1 • Look at the revision guides you have and BBC Bite size sections on analysing non-fiction, in particular, to remind you of the way you would answer these questions. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4 • Also work through the **vocabulary lists for successful English students** (attached) and make sure you are familiar with the terminology from GCSE.	
	Online resources	It is essential that you watch these and make notes: 1) Is an introduction to English Language A' Level https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLcvX_sddV0 2) This is a talk given by David Crystal on how technology is changing language-this is one of the topics we will study https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVqcoB798Is 3) This is a Ted Talk by the linguist Patricia Khul on how babies acquire language. We will study this in Y13 but this is an interesting introduction. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2XBIkHW954&t=392s 4) Find out what 'Synthetic personalisation' is. Watch this speech given by Steve Jobs to students graduating from Stanford University. How does he use elements of synthetic personalisation to motivate and create a sense that he is speaking to each individual? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UF8uR6Z6KLc 5) Listen to this and find out what Rob Drummond (Manchester University) has been researching recently. We work with him and you may meet him during your time on the course. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KySPSAmMEHQ	

	Key words / terminology	Read through the Power Point called **Terminology for Frameworks** to learn the new vocabulary you'll need for A level language. **Make a knowledge organiser for each of the frameworks and flashcards of key vocabulary (put the definition on the back so you can test yourself)**	
	Specific subject task	Complete as much of this booklet as you can (resources to go with it also attached) to prepare you for your A level studies: **"Leaping in to Language-Moving from GCSE to A' level studies."**	
Suggested preparation work	Suggested reading	Find more about the current research in to attitudes to accent and regional variety of accent, being done by Rob Drummond a lecturer at MMU. Follow him on Twitter and join the debate: **The Accentism Project**This is a project aimed at raising awareness of language-based prejudice and discrimination. At the moment we are simply inviting people to share their stories and experiences of linguistic prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping. The project site is at accentism.org, and on Twitter at @AccentismProj. If you'd like to complete an online workshop on national attitudes to accent contact Mrs Exton cexton@ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk for more details. Follow linguist Deborah Cameron's blog. She writes about language and power and language and gender. https://debuk.wordpress.com/	
	Debate topics	# Men and women communicate in different ways and because of this, will always struggle to understand each other. **Research this and find evidence for and against this.** You may want to read the work of Deborah Tannen, Robin Lakoff and Dale Spender amongst other linguists who study language and gender.	
	Radio show/podcast	Word of Mouth' is Michael Rosen's popular radio show about language features topics such as child language, language change, language use and abuse and sociolinguistic variation. Listen to this: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/downloads	
	Magazines / articles to read online	The Guardian's 'Mind your Language' is a regular and engaging blog about all aspects of language, many of which are highly relevant to A/AS Level English Language. Follow this, read and make notes about what you learn on two Language topics that interest you. There are hundreds to choose from. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/player?page=2	
	Other suggested activities	Start to create a folder of articles, examples of articles, writing or notes about things you hear that explore the creation of language, the uses of language and the varieties of language. This could even be photos of language use.	