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Dear families,

English midway and end of unit assessments for Year 9

We hope that you and your friends are well. We know that there is a huge effort going on in the whole school community to make this extended period of online learning work as good as it can be. Thank you from the English teaching team for everything you are doing to make this as productive and worthwhile as it can be.

English teachers have made and are delivering a mixed fiction and non-fiction unit on the theme of Journeys. It includes some quite ambitious short texts, but all have been discussed and explored in lessons. We have tried to reduce the amount of weekly hand-in assignments to one a week, but we are finding that some students are not managing to do this regularly. The work sometimes does not reflect the student's best efforts, or it is not submitted correctly.

Please encourage your Year 9 student to submit a thoughtful task for what we call the '**midway**' assessment. In most classes, only half of the students have submitted work, though most of the task set could have been finished within lesson time. We want to assess these midway tasks so that students can have feedback before the end of unit assessments. It will help us to understand your son's needs and appreciate what he has thought and learnt.

The success criteria for the unit of work are posted on each Year 9 class Team, but it may help to see these here:

William Ellis School English Department Year 9

Unit: Journeys

Key skills being assessed across the unit:

1. I can infer information and ideas from texts and develop clear arguments (with topic sentences) about those texts that link to a given question.
2. I can select short quotations and embed them in my writing to support my arguments.
3. I can analyse a range of ways authors use methods and techniques for effect and to create meanings.
4. I can produce descriptive writing which uses a range of engaging vocabulary and varies sentence and paragraphs for effect.

Midway task – a mini-essay analysing an extract from 'Heart of Darkness': how does the narrator convey the strangeness of the setting in this extract?

End of Unit Task – a mini-essay analysing an extract and a short piece of descriptive writing in response to an image, focusing on describing setting and one character.

Thank you very much for your time and support. We all send our very best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Ms Lorna Damms, Head of English

Mr Robert Yurchesyn, Key Stage 3 English Lead