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Dear families,

English midway mini and end-of-unit assessments for Year 8

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. 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 non-fiction unit entitled Writers Writing for Change. It includes some short challenging 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 8 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 8 class Team, but it may help to see these here:

William Ellis School English Department Year 8

Unit Non-fiction: Writers Writing for Change

Key skills being assessed across the unit:

1. I can shape my ideas and opinions into a range of different non-fiction genres.
2. I can adapt a broad range of strategies to express arguments and opinions.
3. I can write with precision and control in varied sentence structures.
4. I can structure a piece of non-fiction writing appropriately to make it more convincing.
5. I can identify the difference between arguing, persuading, describing, informing and exploring.

Midway task – a non-fiction writing task of my teacher's choice to be marked and redrafted, e.g. A report on the accounts by children in the Hull Blitz

End of Unit Task – at least two edited and redrafted non-fiction writing tasks from different genres of non-fiction writing and with different purposes.

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