

PS220/23-24-JBU/TMC

22.01.24

Dear parent/carer

I hope you are well, and that you have had a good weekend.

I wanted to give you some context to the recent Y8 report for English.

What has my child been studying?

For the first time, your child studied 'Sherlock Holmes', which you may be familiar with. These are short stories in which Sherlock has to solve a crime. While the stories are entertaining, they are nineteenth century texts and are, therefore, pretty complex in terms of the language and structure which are used by the writer. This makes it really challenging for students.

Why do they study such a difficult text in Y8?

It is a requirement of the National Curriculum, as set by the Department for Education, that all students study a variety of whole texts, including nineteenth century. At GCSE, they will study 'A Christmas Carol' as their nineteenth century text. Studying it lower down the school will really help them once they get to Key Stage 4 - they will have knowledge and understanding of Victorian Britain which is important in order for them to understand the message of the texts, as well as being familiar with the complexities of the language used. They will study another nineteenth century text in Y9 which will be 'Jane Eyre'.

Please don't worry if your child has dipped slightly in their English report - this is normal when facing the challenges of a nineteenth century text for the first time. Your child's English teacher has made a judgement based on the assessment, effort in class and homework.

You might want to read more Sherlock Holmes stories, or watch 'Sherlock' on BBC iplayer with your child at home.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Kind regards

Julie Buckle
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