



Improving Literacy at NCC

Literacy Newsletter/Parents

Issue 1 Spring 2021

Literacy is the way in which we read, write, speak and listen in a way that lets us communicate effectively and make sense of the world.

Here at Newman Catholic College we understand that supporting literacy in each subject helps students make progress across the curriculum.

This newsletter provides signposts for parents. It offers tips, useful websites, suggestions for wider reading around a topic and important subject vocabulary so that you can support your child's progress in each subject.

ACCELERATED READER

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice and motivating students to read for pleasure.

Students in years 7-9 can access books online through Brent Libraries and then quiz them in Accelerated Reader via the school website. Students in year 7-9 have been given user names and passwords.

Check that a book is included in AR by entering the name of the book here: <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx>

RELIGION

Three simple ways you can help your child and support their progress in Religion.

1. Ask your child to highlight some key words they have been studying and explain them. For example, ask them to name the module they are currently studying and ask them to highlight and verbally explain some key words linked to that topic.

2. Proofread work tasks with your child to ensure that their work is clearly explained. Ask them to read back work aloud to you. This will help with their use of literacy and consolidate their knowledge about what they have learned in class.

3. Check your child's work. Even if you do not understand the content, you will be able to clearly see if your child has done their best and presented it neatly. Is their handwriting neat? Have they used paragraphs? If you cannot read their work clearly, then there is a good chance no one else will either.

SCIENCE

Students can revise topics, using videos and quizzes to revise the key vocabulary and knowledge required in KS3 (years 7/8/9) KS4 (years 10/11) and KS5 (years 12/13).

Science KS3 Readings (videos and quizzes included)

KS3 Chemistry: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/znxytrd>

KS3 Biology: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z4882hv>

KS3 Physics: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zh2xsbk>

Science KS4 Readings (videos and tests included)

GCSE Chemistry: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb>

GCSE Biology: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpgcbk7>

GCSE Physics: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm>

Science KS5 Readings (videos and tests included)

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

<https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com/app/Home>

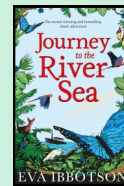
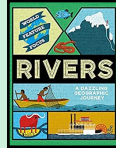
General: <https://quizlet.com/gb/557193611/btec-applied-science-all-flash-cards/>

GEOGRAPHY

Use this guide to identify books you could read to find out more about the places and geographical ideas you are studying. If you would like more recommendations or maybe have your own recommendations, then speak to your Geography teacher.

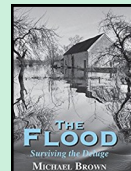
Year 7 How does a river change from source to mouth?

- Rebecca Kahn *Rivers*
- Eva Ibbotson *Journey to the River Sea*



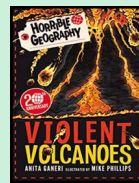
Year 8 How does weather and climate affect the UK?

- Anita Ganeri *Stormy Weather*
- Michael Brown *The Flood: Surviving the Deluge*



Year 9 How are lives shaped by volcanoes?

- Anita Ganeri *Violent Volcanoes*
- Iain Stewart *Plate Tectonics: A ladybird expert*



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Support for French and Spanish can be found at BBC Bitesize. Look at the following websites for further information.

KS3 (years 7-9)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2nygk7>

GCSE

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zhsvr82>

You son or daughter should ask their teacher for specific advice.

HISTORY <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z7svr82>

Year 7 Topics

- Battle of Hastings 1066
- The development of Church, state and society in Medieval Britain 1066-1509
- The Battle of Falkirk 1298
- Thematic Study. Migrants and migration



Year 8 Topics

- The development of Church, state and society in Britain 1509-1745
- Battle of Naseby 1645
- Thematic Study. Black Peoples of the Americas.
- Ideas, political power, industry and empire: Britain, 1745-1901



Year 9 Topics

- Battle of Waterloo 1815.
- The Somme 1916
- Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day.



GCSE History Topics (Edexcel exam board)

- Warfare and British Society
- 1250 to present day
- Henry V 111 and his Ministers 1509-1540
- Superpowers and the Cold War
- Russia and the Soviet Union 1917- 41



COMPUTER SCIENCE

For Internet safety, look at this website https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_uk/.

For Computer Science, use BBC Bitsize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f>

BUSINESS

Below are some useful links to assist with revision and research for your Business coursework, we encourage you to look through these websites and use them when needed!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zpsvr82> - Whilst this is for GCSE and not BTEC, there are excellent explanations of key terms and I suggest that you use this to assist with revision tasks. <https://www.tutor2u.net/business> - This website has a wealth of information and has relevant information, tasks and revision activities for students of all levels. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business> - We encourage all of our students to keep up with the news and look into new and interesting business stories in the news - several of our lesson discussions feature articles from various news outlets.

MATHS

It is important to build good study habits from the outset – students should aim to revise Mathematics for 30 minutes, three times a week. In order for this time to be most effective, they should plan to cover both the topics recently studied in class, as well previous learning.

To help identify areas to focus on, your son/daughter should use a combination of previous work (marked by his teacher) and feedback from homework assignments. Should they need additional support with this, they should speak to their class teacher in the first instance.

Additional practice tests or materials are available online (see the list of useful websites below). Your son/daughter will also have access to HegartyMaths and GCSE Pod, which can further support their revision.

Due to the wealth of material made available to your son/daughter for free by the department, both online and in the format of exam papers and booklets, we do not recommend the purchase of any specific revision guides.

Useful websites for this subject:

hegartymaths.com

qualifications.pearson.com/

bbc.co.uk/bitesize

dfrostmaths.com/

gcsepod.com

nrich.maths.org/

corbettmaths.com

mrbartonmaths.com

www.transum.org

khanacademy.org

DRAMA

Topics studied in each year group and links for further information can be found below.

- **Year 7** Egyptian Curse/Melodrama
- **Year 8** Silent Movies/Mime/Musical Theatre
- **Year 9** Directors - Tim Burton/Black History Month work/Bush Theatre Scheme
- **Year 10** Stanislavski/Bush Theatre Scheme
- **Year 11** Duologues/Component 2/Musical Theatre/Brecht
- **Year 12** Monologues/Style/Genre/Form
- **Year 13** Elizabeth and Jacobean Theatre/Contemporary Theatre Unit/Voice in Broadcasting—using your voice for different purposes/theatre in education/acting for a camera/An Inspector Calls (Tec Aw L2)

Digital Theatre Plus:

<https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education>

Royal Shakespeare Company:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeares-plays>

The National Theatre:

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

The Globe Theatre:

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/#maincontent>

The Old Vic: <https://www.oldvictheatre.com/>

The Kiln Theatre: <https://kilntheatre.com/>

ENGLISH

When students are analysing a text they should always remember the 6 steps.

1. Identify words, characters, symbols, structure...
2. Understand...
3. Explain in your own words...
4. Develop using connectives...
5. Explore other ideas using alternatively/however...
6. Create a theory (what do you believe the text is really about?)...

In a text look for

- **Meaningful words** and phrases 'Aggressive' 'Golden blue'
- **Language features** such as *metaphors, similes, alliteration*
- **Key characters** *Sir Oswald, Mr Utterson, Piggy, The Porter*
- **Symbols** *Scars, An expensive wooden cane, doors, letters, a ring*
- **Important events** *Wild boy stabbing the Showman in the foot, Lady Macbeths first soliloquy, Dr Lanyon witnessing the transformation*
- **Key Themes** *Loyalty, Male ego, female leadership, racism*

Look at BBC Bitesize English KS3 and GCSE for information.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondary>

ART

Students can take advantage of online advice and guidance to improve their art skills.

KS3 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6f3cdm>

GCSE <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6hs34j>

TATE KIDS <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids>



LEXIA

Lexia Power-up is an online programme that supports spelling, grammar and comprehension. Targeted students in KS3 have been given a username and password and can access Lexia via <https://www.lexiapowerup.com/>

BBC

Collections of educational resources on the BBC Bitesize and BBC Teach websites are available to support online learning at home for pupils in Years 1 to 9, and those studying for GCSEs. Lessons and programmes will broadcast on TV - on BBC Two and CBBC - as well as on iPlayer, providing support for children unable to access online resources.

How can I access this content?

- **Online - Bitesize - Lockdown Learning** offers a suite of engaging learning resources for children aged 5 to fifteen. These online lessons are full of videos, quizzes and practice activities to help students keep on track when learning at home. You can use the lessons to introduce ideas for the first time, or as refreshers.
- **TV** - Programming for primary pupils is on CBBC between 09:00 and 12:00 each weekday. Programmes for secondary school pupils are on BBC Two, between 1pm and 3pm.
- **iPlayer** - All programmes are available to catch-up, **on-demand on iPlayer**.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bitesize-daily-schedules-teach/zdtwjhv>

BBC BITESIZE

BBC Bitesize offers revision materials, tests, quizzes and video clips to support a range of topics.

KS3 (years 7-9)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z4kw2hv>

KS4 (GCSE)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

KS5 (Functional Skills)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zvhtng8>

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Support for all areas of Design & Technology (K3-5) can be found at: www.technologystudent.com

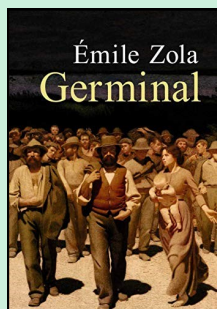
MY FAVOURITE BOOK

Mr Daniel Coyle
Head Teacher

Germinal

By Emile Zola

Germinal is Émile Zola's realistic depiction of the coalminers' strike in northern France in the 1860s. The story centres on Étienne Lantier, a young migrant worker who arrives at the coalmining town of Montsou in search of work. Set against a backdrop of extreme poverty and oppression, *Germinal* is the story of the idealistic but naive Étienne, who embraces the ideals of the socialistic movement and goes on to lead a strike of the coalminers with disastrous consequences. In turns harrowing and violent, Zola brilliantly describes scenes of riots and dramatic rescues, while at the same time bringing to life the characters' romances, passions, and frailties.



BRENT LIBRARIES

Students and their families can join Brent Libraries and then access books, magazines, newspapers and reference materials online. You can access the library 24/7 for free, with a library card and PIN.

Join Brent Libraries here: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/libraries/elibrary/>

E-Books

Free access to over 20,000 titles through the London libraries consortium. Available on a variety of phones and e-readers.

- Download e-books and e-audio
- Download children's e-books and e-audio
- Download teen e-books and e-audio
- Discover Africa's Stories
- **NEW - eComics - Marvel & more**

Members can also access references materials and dictionaries, including bilingual dictionaries.

If you or your son or daughter would like to submit a book review for inclusion in this newsletter (of a book suitable for students in years 7-11) please email it to komalley@ncc.brent.sch.uk.

NCC KEY SUBJECT VOCABULARY WORD BANKS

Students should be able to read, spell, understand the meaning of these words in context and use these words correctly.

ENGLISH	MATHS	SCIENCE	DRAMA
culture presents impact utopia symbol/ism/ises simultaneously conflict/ing evaluation ambiguous identify exclaimed purpose alternative implicit connotation	add subtract multiply divide ratio proportion equivalent fraction decimal percentage factorise factor prime perimeter area	cell photosynthesis respiration pathogen blood energy resources current national grid force friction fossil fuel free electron isotopes mass number temperature	collaboration confidence compromise actor character playwright accent audition scene scenario character genre tragedy comedy plot
HISTORY	RELIGION	GEOGRAPHY	ICT
parliament monarch dictator peasant castle knight revolution suffragette trench revolt armada communism democracy segregation reformation	apostles baptism conscience disciples eucharist respect sin worship covenant gospel moral evil natural evil sacrament creation salvation	volcano rural/urban migration inner core scale population distribution densely populated plate death rate central business district water cycle infant mortality rate pull factor urban mouth life expectancy	computer hardware software software application (app) networks wireless network (WiFi) broadband computer virus web browser cloud storage hacking phishing e-mail spam privacy settings database algorithm
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	BUSINESS	HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE	
design process orthographic drawing isometric drawing linkage mechanism task analysis iterative design modern materials finishing technique casting polymer design idea prototype biodegradable ferrous/non ferrous metal design specification	aim asset breakeven cash inflow cash outflow customer entrepreneur ethics goods growth import loss SMART service export	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure your son or daughter can spell these words. Look at spelling strategies at https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zq296fr/revision/1 2. Ask your son or daughter to explain what the words mean within the relevant context. 3. Ask your son or daughter to check their work, have they used the correct spelling and used the word correctly in their books? 4. Give your son or daughter spelling tests to check they can spell the words correctly. 5. Ask your son or daughter to contact their teachers if they need any specific help. 6. Print this resource and display it at home. 	