

Dear all,

We hope this finds you safe and well. And we hope you are looking forward to the new- look classes as much as we are to delivering them!

If you want to get ahead, there are two key areas you could be thinking about and reading about. These will not require any specialist knowledge: just an open mind and the ability to question your own attitudes to the language we use, as well as the willingness to engage with others' ideas. The areas are *1. what attitudes do I have* to eg slang, language and social media, swearing, language used by and to represent different genders *2. journalism- both reading and writing articles-* maybe to do with these language issues but also topics you are interested in more generally.

I attach a number of activities that you can have a look at. To take it one stage further, you may wish to read the articles that are linked to three of these sheets (language and age, gender, occupation) and boil the ideas down to 1 bullet point per paragraph (or one bullet point for the whole article). Or you may choose to have a go at your own piece of journalism (typically 500-750 words) using one of the listed topics as a starting point: there's plenty of current issues to choose from. All it requires is for you to have an opinion (and reasons for it). Alternatively, you may want to research the topic and use those ideas in your own article. Written output can be saved/ printed for you sparkly new Language folder. And we will always be happy to read any articles you produce!

We have access to English and Media Centre's magazine (useful for Lit too if you're signed-up for that). As well as the current edition you will be able to browse the back copies of articles on topics in the activities you've been given. So, not only will you find out some current thinking, you will be reading examples of journalism- so win-win.

Log- in: Thomas Mills

Password: emagazine

Take a look! It's designed for A Level students and very browsable.

If you prefer spoken mode and listening to interesting and engaging debate, why not head over to the BBC Sounds app? There's a whole catalogue of 30- minute programmes just perfect for the student of English Language: it's called 'Word of Mouth' and the presenter is Michael Rosen. Again, it is being broadcast now- so very current- but you can also access a useful back catalogue. Each programme is very easy to listen to as you're.... relaxing, cooking, running....

So plenty to get your teeth into in this time. And plenty of choice of topic, output and how you access this material. Do try to build some into your routine if you can.

All the very best,

Ms Cornell and the English Language Team