

# English Language A Level



## Compulsory summer tasks: read Bill Bryson's book 'Mother Tongue' and create a Scrapbook

- Bill Bryson's book Mother Tongue is a **brilliant introduction to the study of language** and linguistics. **Read it** and **make notes** on it, then come ready to **talk about it in your first week of lessons**.
- As you are going to be students of language we would also like you to put together a **scrapbook** that you can add to throughout the course.
  - **The first half of the scrapbook** should include **articles about words** that annoy or amuse people; language issues that cause people interest and concern (swearing? slang?); **technology** and words (texting, email etc); **sexism** in language; and **power** in language. Think about how people show their authority through language. How do politicians assert their power? Football managers? Parents? Men? Women? How are texting and social media changing language?
  - **The second half** might include examples of the following: **reviews** – sporting, music, film, literature; **magazine articles** on travel, fashion or sport; extracts from your favourite **fiction** in any style; an example of writing to **persuade**.

**You must bring your reading notes and Scrapbook with you to your first lesson.**

### **Additional reading**

**Read, read, read!** Anything from the back of a cornflake packet to leaflets, novels, magazines and tweets. In addition, these books will help enormously with the whole idea of linguistics and are all available on Amazon.

*A/AS Level English Language for AQA Student Book* by Marcello Giovanelli and Gary Ives

*AQA A Level English Language: Student Book* by Dan Clayton and Angela Goddard

*The Story of English in 100 words*, David Crystal

*Rediscover Grammar*, David Crystal

*The Myth of Mars and Venus*, Deborah Cameron

### **Websites/other media**

‘Word of Mouth’ on Radio 4 provides a fascinating insight to the English Language and is hosted by Michael Rosen. You can download podcasts or visit his website and blog. David Crystal also has a very useful and informative website, as does Deborah Cameron. **Follow @hcclang on Twitter!**

[www.michaelrosen.co.uk](http://www.michaelrosen.co.uk)

[www.davidcrystal.co.uk](http://www.davidcrystal.co.uk)

<https://debuk.wordpress.com>