Dear Parents,

On Friday last week we celebrated Deepavali. Many students came to school wearing traditional dress. Year 5 organised a colourful assembly for their parents and students in the primary school. However the highlight of the day for many students (and staff!) will have been the lunch of Indian food provided by a group of parents. Very many thanks to all those involved in our Deepavali celebrations and especially to those of you who prepared such a wonderful lunch for us all.

Attached to this newsletter is information about the learning and teaching of English in the secondary school. We shall shortly be providing information on the school website about all areas of the curriculum in both the primary and secondary school. We shall let you know through this newsletter when it is available.

Best regards,

School Uniform

School sweatshirts are now available in a range of sizes from the school shop, priced at RM35.

I am constantly surprised - and sometimes a little worried - by the number of students in this tropical climate who feel it is necessary to wear warm clothing in the school or even outside in the midday sun. However if your child does feel the need to wrap up in the classroom then from next Monday, 10th November this must be a school sweatshirt. Other forms of coats and outer garments will not be allowed.

School hats in house colours have been available in the school shop for the past three weeks. These are a compulsory item of uniform for primary children when playing outdoors. They are optional for secondary aged students. A larger size of hat suitable for larger secondary heads should be available soon!

English at Key Stage 3

Dear Parents,

Please accept our thanks...

One of the pleasures of working with our secondary students is that they enjoy reading so much! Nowhere can that be seen better than during Tenby’s first Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) programme. For 15 minutes, three times a week, each secondary class “drops everything and reads!” along with the form tutor. Reading innately develops language mastery, and our thanks go to parents for understanding, and supporting children’s development by supplying them with the books they enjoy.

Formal assessments have started

Each year is finished or is about to finish its first unit. Year 7E will soon embark on Poetry while 7T embarks on a novel study (Millions), Year 8 will study Diary Writing and Year 9 will start Poetry. At the same time, we will explain to each class the expectations of the assessment system and, particularly, which elements they need to focus on to improve. You’ll notice that each child will have a “stoplight” in the back of his or her exercise book. Filled out with the teacher, the stoplight is the student’s own tool to track and improve skills, and to measure his or her progress against national curriculum standards.
Helping students understand
To help the students understand and, again, to help them decide on their own progress or areas for improvement, most pieces of work will receive a round green, yellow or red sticker (along with teacher comments, of course). Green means “Go!” and signifies mastery is achieved. Yellow, like a traffic light, means “Caution Needed!” Yellow indicates a student is nearing the required expectations, but may need extra assistance, revision or more on-task concentration before advancing to the next level. Red is our way of saying “Stop! More help and/or work is needed!” You’ll notice that some children have marked both yellow and green in their stoplights. Although they have done well (green), they realize they can still improve and, hence, have also signaled that to themselves by using yellow. We commend their initiative!

Stoplights help you too...
The secondary staff has been wonderful in adapting the traffic light system for student diaries, so teachers, students and parents can easily identify areas of excellence and/or if extra attention is necessary.

Term Objectives

Year 7 Poetry Objectives
Recognizing and using figurative language
Identifying and practising rhyme schemes
Writing the P.E.E. paragraph
Developing empathy
Learning about different cultures
Shakespeare appreciation

Year 7 Novel Objectives
Deduction and inference
Character analysis
Plot outline
Structure and purpose
Developing the P.E.E. (Point, Evidence, Explanation) paragraph
Essay writing

Year 8 Diary Objectives
Examining diaries as historic literary forms
Examining diaries as forms of fiction
Narrative techniques
Travel writing
Writing as a record

Year 9 Poetry Objectives
Explaining effects on reader
Narrative structure
Defining technique
Figurative language
Writing an analysis

WALT and WILF
When each new lesson starts, WALT and WILF let our students know what to expect. WALT means “What Am I Learning Today?” and WILF means “What Am I (the teacher) Looking For?” Both teachers and students find WALT and WILF make our learning objectives very clear.

Word of the Week
Each week, our students decide on a “Word of the Week” which we post in all secondary classrooms. All students and teachers are challenged to use the word as many times as possible weekly -- or even daily! -- to enhance student vocabulary (while trying to have some fun!).

Once more, our appreciation for your support and many words of encouragement!

~ Janet Clayton and Brenda Ginn ~