**GCSE English // Functional Skills English work for prospective students**

**GCSE English:** Students who may be considering re-taking GCSE English at Callywith College can use this time to focus on a number of things. We have the option for you to re-take English Language at Callywith and we use Pearson Edexcel as the exam board for the examinations. This may differ from your school and so it would be useful to familiarise yourself with the layout of the exams you could be entered for at Callywith.

Here are some links to previous exam papers you can take a look at:

**Paper 1** <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/English%20Language/2015/Exam-materials/1EN0_01_que_20180606.pdf>

* This exam focuses on 19th century Fiction and Imaginative writing
* You could research some famous 19th century novels and explore the context surrounding them – is there a particular theme/interest/idea you can identify between writers?
* Revise what it means to explore how writers use language and structure to engage a reader. You could make some notes or create a poster that identifies different techniques writers use such as metaphors, emotive language, sentence length etc.
* You could practice writing imaginatively; think of a story you could write about – how would you make it interesting for a reader? What devices could you use to make your story stand out? Would you write with the intention to make a reader laugh? Cry? Feel tense?

**Paper 2**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/English%20Language/2015/Exam-materials/1EN0_02_que_20180609.pdf>

* This exam focuses on Non-Fiction and Transactional writing. You will be given two texts to read for this paper and your section B will focus on writing a piece of transactional writing such as a newspaper article, speech, review etc.
* You could research how writers can have similar ideas as well as contrasting ideas between two texts. Take a look at the exam paper and consider the questions 7a and 7b.
* Again, think about how writers use language and structural features to engage readers. How is this effective?
* You could practice your transactional writing. Try and write a newspaper article about a topic you are passionate about; how would you get that passion across? What devices could you use to make your writing interesting and engaging?
* Create a poster to revise the following DAFORREST devices:
* Direct address
* Repetition
* Rhetorical question
* Emotive language
* Statistics
* Triple (or rule of three)
* Alliteration
* Fact
* Opinion

**Functional Skills English Level 1 and Level 2:** We have the option for you to sit Functional Skills English here at Callywith College. If you feel that you may gain a Level 2 or below for your GCSE English then you will have the opportunity to complete this course. There are three components to this qualification:

**Reading:** exploring a wide range of Non-Fiction texts such as newspaper articles, speeches, reports, reviews, emails, letters etc. Identifying what techniques a writer uses. Make sure you are familiar with word classes such as verbs, nouns, adjectives, pronouns –create a poster to help you revise them.

**Writing:** This exam focuses on your writing skills. Practice how to write a letter using the correct layout, or you could write an article on a topic you are passionate about. Try to research the difference between formal and informal language. Why does this matter? When might we need to use more formal language vs. informal?

**Speaking and Listening:** This exam will give you the opportunity to improve your confidence and skills around verbal communication. You will be asked to complete a presentation on a topic of your choice. This could be something you are passionate about for example, why you think we need to do more to protect the environment or why you think football is a great sport. The choice is yours.

The second part of this exam will be a group discussion. You could research what it means to be a good communicator – why is body language and listening to others important? You will be tested on your listening skills too. This looks fantastic on your CV and if you are thinking of applying for an apprenticeship, as employers will favor candidates who have excellent communication skills.

If you have any questions regarding GCSE English or Functional Skills English please get in contact with us.