

# English in Action:

## PROGRESS, PERFORMANCE AND POWERFUL STORIES

It has been another busy and productive term in the English Department, with students across all year groups demonstrating focus, creativity, and growing confidence in their studies.

### YEAR 8

Students are currently studying myths and legends from around the world. Through reading, discussion, and creative writing, students are discovering how different cultures use storytelling to explain the unknown, celebrate heroes, and caution against danger. To enrich this learning further, we hope to arrange a visit to museums in Dar es Salaam, where students can explore Tanzanian cultural heroes, monsters, and myths firsthand, bringing their classroom learning vividly to life.

### YEAR 9

Students have begun an exciting new unit on *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. As well as exploring the novel's themes, historical context, and moral questions, students will develop their drama skills by taking on both acting and directorial roles. This will allow them to explore character, tension, and staging in thoughtful and creative ways. The unit promises to strengthen not only analytical skills but also empathy and collaboration.

### YEAR 10 & 12

Students have reached the halfway point in their courses and are making excellent progress. Both year groups are deepening their analytical skills and producing increasingly sophisticated responses to literature and language texts. It is encouraging to see students growing in independence and confidence as they work steadily towards their final examinations next year.

### YEAR 11

Students have now completed their course content and are fully immersed in revision as they prepare for their final examinations. Lessons are centred on consolidating key knowledge, refining exam technique, and working through past papers to build confidence and familiarity with the exam format. During this important period, we continue to encourage students to maintain a healthy balance, staying motivated, organised, and calm as they approach the final stretch. We are proud of their resilience and commitment and look forward to seeing their hard work rewarded.

We will conclude this half term with a special trip for Year 10 and 11 students to watch the Braeburn Arusha production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Friday 13th February, a fitting and enjoyable way to round off the term's work.

