**Form 8**

In the Autumn of Form 8 the children will sit two full CE English papers. These papers are sent by the ISEB each year.

**Paper 1** (1 hour 15 mins) 50 marks in total.

**Section A** is a reading comprehension, which involves reading a short passage and then answering some questions. This part of the exam is used to ascertain the child’s direct understanding of what they have read and their ability to infer information about the passage. (There are 25 marks available for this section)

**Section B** is a writing task, which involves writing for practical purposes; to argue, persuade, advise, inform or to write from personal experience. There is also the opportunity to write a book related composition based on a book they have studied in class, should the child choose. (There are 25 marks available for this section.)

**Paper 2** (1 hour 15 mins) 50 marks in total.

**Section A** is a poetry comprehension. This part of the exam assesses the child’s skill at approaching an unseen poem and their understanding of poetic techniques (metaphor, simile, personification, symbols etc).

**Section B** is, either, a writing task using a book they have read as a reference or a creative writing task. The children will be offered a range of stimuli (a title, a sentence, a topic etc) and are expected to write a story using one of these to help them frame their ideas. This paper is used to assess how well they able to structure and plan their work (use of paragraphs/ grammar etc), their use of language and range of vocabulary, how well they express themselves with clarity, and their use of descriptive language and devices (similes, metaphors etc).

Form 8 Autumn English Exams

**What the children are expected to do in school:**

In Form 8 there is plenty of time set aside for revision in school. The class teacher will use the days and weeks that lead up to the exam to prepare the children for all the tasks and reiterate the techniques they will need.

**What the children are expected to do at home:**

By Form 8 the children will need to do some revision at home. There is a common misconception that it is not possible to revise for English or that ‘reading’ will suffice. I would encourage all Form 8 pupils to practise at least the following during their revision.

* Practise writing PEE paragraphs (Point, Evidence, Explain).
* Learn the quotations from the novel they intend to write about (if they intend to answer the question on a novel).
* Revise dramatic devices (similes, metaphors, personification, foreshadowing etc)
* Revise the pneumonic FLIRT (Form/ structure, Language, Imagery, Rhythm/ rhyme, Theme/topic) when approaching poetry comprehension.

**A note on alternative exam provision.**

‘Alternative exam provision’ refers to the range of support strategies available to children who qualify for them. They include; extra time; reader; scribe or use of a computer, amongst other things.

If a child received alternative exam provision in Form 7, it should be presumed that they will receive the same support in Form 8.

In some cases, there will be a change in the support offered, or a child might receive an alternative provision for the first time. The Learning Support Department will be in touch with parents where this is the case.