

# English Literature Support

## Teacher Appraisals

Teachers and pupils are invited to offer feedback after classroom demonstrations paying particular reference to the bearing on CfE outcomes and the five priorities to improvement. Here are some recent samples of their comments.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year **The Merchant of Venice**

*Pupils involved in these sessions could not fail to have their appreciation of the subject matter enhanced. Inevitably this would lead to a better and more comprehensive understanding, which in turn should produce improved results.*

*This was collaborative learning, as it should be experienced; the classes were well prepared, the pupils learned a great deal and above all enjoyed the whole process.*

*Those pupils actively participating were given the opportunity to express and develop skills over the time available. As a joint experience pupils were able to share in learning situations based on building self-esteem as well as better understanding of the subject matter.*

**English teacher**

*Presentations on Elizabethan theatre & Venice helped pupils considerably to contextualise setting.*

*Pupils gained a greater understanding of Shylock through your acting – you raised some questions in their minds regarding Antonio and his relationship with Shylock. Also, they were able to recognise that Shylock may well have been losing his mind somewhat by the end.*

*References to religious and historical background has enabled them to understand some of the references in dialogue. Today they showed that they had remembered you telling them about Pilate and Barrabas “My deeds upon my head”.*

*They certainly appreciated a more informal approach and this has helped them to appreciate the text more. They genuinely enjoyed the lessons and benefited from seeing Shakespeare presented in a way non-drama folk are unable to!*

**English teacher**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year **Romeo and Juliet**

*I think the input you had on the play was very valuable. It allowed the pupils not only a deeper understanding of the play itself, but also of theatre in Shakespeare's day.*

*It is difficult to get the performance aspect across to pupils without the help of experts like yourself. I found your comments on the curse - the 'plague on both your houses' - to be most enlightening and followed up on this in class.*

*The essays are due in a couple of days, so fingers crossed they will demonstrate a marvellous depth of knowledge!*

**English teacher**

### 4<sup>th</sup> Year **Macbeth / The Merchant of Venice**

*The two sessions were both extremely enjoyable, informative and useful. Involving the class in the acting and directing of the scenes allowed them to be effective contributors and also gave them a fresh insight into drama. The knowledge they gained about dramatic techniques will be useful both this year and next- when they start the Higher course.*

*I also felt that it was a great opportunity to "stretch" these able pupils and to give them a different experience of Shakespeare to that of the classroom. The sessions left both the class and myself newly enthused about the texts we had studied and gave the class some useful ideas for creative writing which they will be able to use in the Standard Grade exam.*

## **Advanced Higher      Hamlet**

*Students were introduced to a different approach to examining themes and character. An impact has been shown in the writing of critical essays.*

*It was helpful to me – I learned along with my students. The class have a relaxed and sharing approach to work anyway but this experience enhanced that atmosphere. It encouraged thinking and independent learning.*

*The content certainly encouraged creative thinking in approaches to Drama. This was excellent use of student time and would love to have more of this kind of activity as an integral part of the higher course.*

## **PT English**

### **Pupil comments**

*...I saw more depth to the text and what the characters may have been thinking...*

*...gave me good general ideas for creative writing which I would develop further...*

*...more interesting than just writing an essay...*

*...it gave me a lot of ideas for creative writing...*

*...helped me understand the language better...*

*...helped me visualise the imagery of the plays...*

*...bits that we perhaps didn't really understand were analysed and made clear...*

*...I saw a new meaning to the story that I would never have picked up before...*

*...liked the part where some pupils and JG were acting out a scene from MoV because it was really funny...*

*...turned a boring scene into something that was funny and entertaining...*

*...favourite part was when he recited Shylock's speech without the script...*

*...good banter when people were chosen to act bits out because it gave us something to laugh at...*

*...he made all the plays he covered come alive through acting...*

*...you got to hear how the play was actually acted out...*

*...meeting a real actor was the most useful part...*

*...enjoyed looking at the masks and the pictures of Venice...*

*...getting to find out some background information on what was happening at the time when the play was written...*