**English Course Outline – National 5**

**Criteria and Expectations**

All pupils are given the opportunity to attempt work of a National 5 level, but this is carefully monitored throughout the year and pupils may be recommended to change their level as the year progresses. At the beginning of the year, all pupils will undertake National 4 Literacy and AVU assessments in order to gauge their confidence and skill level.

Our presentation policy for National 5 is made on an individual pupil basis and decisions concerning final levels at made at various points in the year depending on specific circumstances. Due to SQA requirements, we will be asked to submit a decision towards the end of November as well as reviewing progress and suitability following the Estimate Exams.

Pupils are given then opportunity to sit the SQA Literacy qualifications at N3 & N4 and many pupils successfully undertake the National 5 Literacy unit in S4 if they do not go on to sit the final exam.

We take into account: work ethic, homework submission, ability to meet deadlines, quality of work produced, attendance and evidence of independent study and revision. These elements are used along with assessment results to determine suitability for progression to the Higher course in S5.

**English Faculty Results and Ethos:**

The English Faculty at Mackie Academy prides itself not only in it highly successful results but also in its approach to attainment. We are aspirational in our desire that all pupils should be given the opportunity to attain their potential and we spend a lot of time personalising the learning paths of pupils to best meet their needs. As such for the last two years we have had a 98% pass rate at N5 with over 76% of the students gaining an A or B grade. This has been possible through the knowledge and experience of staff but also due to pupils following our advice and recommendations as to which particular level they should be presented for.

**Expectations from you:**

* Commitment
* Good attendance
* Complete ALL homework
* Meet ALL deadlines
* Attend Supported Study
* READ – not just what you are told to!
* ENGAGE – think about the texts you are studying – try to think about characters, setting, plot etc.
* Be OPEN – tell us if you are stuck – communication is key.

**How progress is tracked?**

* Class teachers will update PSAT/parents/FH via informal discussions and CFC’s as well as reports.
* FH will come to have a discussion with you if we feel you are struggling or if specific issues arise (this is not always necessarily for a negative reason).
* Class teachers will monitor your progress against your MIDYIS predicted grades and undertake to have numerous learning conversations throughout the year.

**Next Steps…**

* We would expect you to always be aware of your “Next Steps”.
* You need to take responsibility for your own learning and while we will support you – ultimately you will be the person sitting in the exam hall.
* If you are struggling you MUST communicate with your class teacher (or see Mrs H).

**Assessments**

**Internal:** Reading, writing, talking and listening skills are assessed in a variety of contexts. These are used to determine suitability for the N5 course as well as identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

Writing is usually assessed through Folio drafts – pupils MUST submit examples of work which pass N5 level before the SQA deadline date.

Spoken Language Unit: this will be assessed by classroom teachers and pupils must demonstrate that they can meet the set criteria - this is not graded.

**External:**

**Paper 1**: RUAE (Reading paper) – An unseen non-fiction passage and a selection of questions testing understanding, analysis and evaluation skills – 1 hour (30 marks)

**Paper 2**: i) Textual Analysis – Scottish Texts which will have been studied in class. Series of questions which test language skills and understanding of the text. (20 marks)

ii) Critical Reading – To write one critical essay based on literature studied over the year. This tests not just their ability to remember their text in depth but their writing style and ability. (20 marks – 1hour 30 minutes for both sections)

**Portfolio**: Two writing pieces are sent to the SQA to be externally assessed. This tests the ability to plan, develop and edit work as well as being able to meet set deadlines. (up to 1000 words each - 30 marks in total)

1. Creative/reflective
2. Persuasive/discursive

Pupils can work on these independently throughout the year but evidence must retained to determine authenticity. Teachers are limited in the amount of support they are allowed to offer due to strict SQA guidelines. Pupils are not allowed to work on these pieces with Tutors or be given extensive parental support.

Assessment and submission dates for the Portfolio will be shared with pupils and parents via Show My Homework, the English Faculty website and the school assessment calendar.

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**Our Vision: *We all know our Next Steps.***

In the English Faculty, we support all of our pupils in developing their confidence and aspiration in English and literacy.

**Our Values:** We enable our pupils to:

* build resilience through hard work and the desire to continually progress their learning.
* share their learning and celebrate their achievements.
* understand the relevance of the work that we do in the Faculty, and appreciate how these skills can be used in a variety of contexts.