



# DONNYBROOK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

An Independent Public School

PRINCIPAL – James Milne

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of the Year 10 program for Term Two in English. We will be studying texts with an emphasis on Australian and Asian culture.

**READING:** The focus for all students will be reading and discussing *The Happiest Refugee*, an acclaimed novel by the famous Australian, Anh Do. A small amount of time will be given in class to read the novel and students have a library session with Mrs Kidd each week where they may read the English novel or their own choice. They will also need to complete reading at home for **at least 30 minutes each night**. This will enable them to be ready for the next class discussion session and completion of the booklet. We will also be reading short stories and viewing current events on Australian/Asian issues, as well as reading some Asian-themed Australian poetry to discuss and analyse, relating to the novel. This will include poetry relating to WWII and the Vietnam War, to complement the HASS program.

**WRITING:** Students will start working straight away on an **Australian issue** of their choice. This will be the major written assessment for the term, other than the exam writing piece. 'Timed responses' about set topics or visual prompts will be completed within class time in order to be prepared for this practice, which will be continued in Year 11. A classroom focus will be on developing better essay structure to improve cohesion and links between paragraphs. Students must be willing to spend time at home re-drafting to complete better quality assessments, particularly if they are wanting to complete the ATAR course next year.

**SPEAKING & LISTENING:** All students will be informally assessed based on their participation in class discussions. It is essential that all students complete at least two speeches over the next three terms; the **ideas for speeches will be negotiated** with me in the next two weeks. Students will listen to this year's Harmony Day National Debate on whether Australia is the most successful multi-cultural country in the world in order to discuss their own views.

**VIEWING:** We will continue to view the mockumentary "We Can Be Heroes" or "Kath & Kim" so students can complete a major **assessment** on character stereotyping and Australian values. The other Viewing pieces will involve current events or youtube clips on a variety of Australian issues to assist them with their written assessment above; in particular, we will look closely at Malcolm Turnbull's ideas to amend the Australian Citizenship process and our refugee policy, to tie in with the novel. We will also analyse techniques used by creators of print visuals and picture book writers and illustrators of this genre; in particular, Anh Do's picture book, 'The Little Refugee', so we can compare it to the novel.

All students will be issued with notes or take their own notes in order to prepare them for each assessment. It is imperative that they closely follow the Assessment Rubrics, as the listed criteria clearly outlines how they can improve their grades. **The homework/assignment due dates are always listed on my whiteboard and must be recorded in your son/daughter's own diary or workbook. It is your child's responsibility to maintain an organised homework and study program at home. Students in Year 10 receive a 10% deduction for each school day an assignment is late. All students should be bringing home the fortnightly homework sheet which is available on the school website.**

**Revision is essential preparation for the Exam Week in week 6. Students will be told information via the homework note about the exam content closer to this time.**

Students are able to log into the computer program "Wordflyers" at home to continue to practise their English skills in Spelling, Vocabulary, Writing and Reading.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please contact me at school by phone or email: [Anthea.Horton@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Anthea.Horton@education.wa.edu.au).

Kind regards,

Anthea Horton  
English teacher

Wednesday, 10 May 2017

Senior Campus - 10 Bentley Street, Donnybrook WA 6239 Phone: 9731 1060

Junior Campus - 58 Mead Street, Donnybrook WA 6239 Phone: 9731 1557

**WEB ADDRESS:** [www.donnybrook.wa.edu.au](http://www.donnybrook.wa.edu.au)