

Hi James,

In today's English lesson we practised the following:

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG):

You continued to exercise your SPaG knowledge using the *GCSE SPaG Online 10-Minute* test:

- <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/resources/cgp-s-free-online-10-minute-tests/free-gcse-spag-online-10-minute-test>
- You recalled that 'who' is used for people, whereas 'which' is used for objects.
- You revised the use of: commas, spelling ('ie' vs. 'ei'), punctuation in direct speech, pronouns (*the somebody and I*, not *me and somebody*), semicolons and colons, and possessive apostrophes.
- You also revised your understanding of the present perfect continuous tense by correctly explaining several examples of varying grammatical constructs.

Persuasive Dissertation:

You reviewed your draft dissertation against the P.E.E.L criteria (Point, Evidence, Explanation, Link): firstly, by re-checking that each separate paragraph fulfilled the appropriate P.E.E.L criteria; secondly, by adding further relevant content to each paragraph; and thirdly, by verifying the specific criteria for a paragraph.

Vocabulary:

Today's words are:

- **assuage**: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/assuage>
- **chagrin** <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/chagrin>

Text Analysis and Stylistic Devices:

You learnt the meaning of 'juxtaposition' to emphasis contrast between clauses in texts as adeptly demonstrated in the opening paragraph of *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens:

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times ...

You also learnt the meaning of the words 'lexical', 'lexicon' and 'semantic' and the importance of context in any text.

Creative Writing:

We took turns to read and then lightly analyse a brief extract from Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest* in which Oscar Wilde exaggerates and mocks the behaviour of the Victorian upper social class and their apparent obsession with marriage. For example, smoking is considered 'an occupation' and 'to know nothing' is deemed acceptable due to the distrust of the education system at that time.

Reading, Speaking and Listening:

Finally, you read several further pages of *Prelude to Foundation* by Isaac Asimov. You practised varying your intonation in order to effect a more engaging delivery and we identified an example of 'ethos' (an argument that appeals to the audience by emphasizing the speaker's credibility and authority).

Remember to pay careful attention and read the words from the text exactly as they are written: don't omit any and don't add any.

Our Literary Learning Objectives:

To nurture inquisitive minds and cultivate the desire for knowledge.

To study, appreciate, enjoy, and retain literary knowledge.

To understand, recognise and apply literary techniques.

To communicate expressively using a rich dialogue.