



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SIXTH FORM
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
BRIDGING UNIT

English Language

Introduction

The first year of the course will entail the learning of linguistic methods of analysis. It will also feature the study of language and social contexts paying particular regard to how children acquire language; how language reflects power and the significance of dialect. You will also learn how to write creatively across a range of genres.

Preparation

Language is a fascinating subject for study. You will learn why we speak and write; how we speak and write and how context always determines language choice. By way of introducing yourself to the subject, I would highly recommend that you read Bill Bryson's book on the English Language; "Mother Tongue" which is funny, accessible, learned and interesting. I would also recommend that you read David Crystal's book: "Words, Words, Words".

Questions

In addition to the above reading, I would like you to answer the following questions:

1. What is the etymology (word history) of your first name; your last name and the place in which you live?
2. Why do we spell knee with a k?
3. Why might men and women speak differently?
4. What is Standard English?
5. "Prince Charles speaks better English than Peter Kay?" Consider the truth of this statement.
6. What is a modal auxiliary verb?
7. What have the words shampoo, thug and jodhpurs got in common?
8. Why was it impossible for Shakespeare to make a spelling mistake?
9. "Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum" Translate these words. From which language do they come?
10. Why has your generation been described as the most literate in human history?

We will discuss your answers to the above questions in the first week of next term. I look forward to it.





**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Jeremiah 29:11

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