

# St George's Academy



## Media Studies



## Transition Pack 2017

Name:		Form:	
Transition Pack Grade:	Targets:	Essay Grade:	Targets:

Please read all sections/instructions very carefully and complete this pack in detail.  
It should be brought to the first lesson.



## Task Two

Choose an example of each of the following media forms and watch, read, play or listen to at least a fifteen minute segment of each. Some have guidance about the genre whilst others are free choice.

	Title Be specific about the name and channel/platform you used.	Explain why you either liked, or didn't like the product. Write about the presenters, stories, characters and plot in your answer. Make sure that you refer to specific parts of the text.
TV Programmes: crime drama		
Computer Games: Action adventure Please watch a YouTube recording of gameplay if you don't have other access		
Music Video		



Magazines		
Print Newspapers		
Radio Woman's Hour BBC Radio 4		

VOGUE

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***Remember to read all instructions and follow them carefully!***

### Task Three

Choose ONE of the AUDIO VISUAL products from Task Two to study in more depth. Play/watch it or listen to it several times more, but this time look at the detail. In Task Five you will need to write a review.

Use this table to make bullet point notes. Avoid describing in detail, but record what you see and hear.

<b>Visual Detail</b> <u>Moving image:</u> setting/location/costumes/makeup/lighting	<b>Audio Detail</b> What different sounds are used to create atmosphere? Is it edited in, or can the characters hear it?

**Narrative:** Summarise the events or action in six stages.


### Task Four

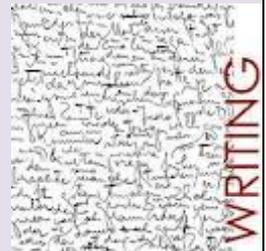
Read the review of "The Durrells" written for the Telegraph newspaper. This is an example of a professionally written review which goes beyond describing the programme. Look at how the reviewer makes reference to the actors, setting and plot. Select some effective phrases and think about how they may want a reader to view the programme. Please make the effort to look up any words that you don't understand.

Setting	
Actors	
Visual references	
Narrative/plot	

### Task Five: Write a review of your chosen task three product

Write a review of the media product that you studied for Task Three. How does it appeal to its target audience? What parts of it are attractive to the audience and why?

Use the notes you made from reading the Telegraph review to help you construct your own review. Remember to include details to help you write about HOW your chosen product appeals to the audience.



<p>...</p> 	<p><b>Have I...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referred specifically to the product?</li> <li>• Made sure I haven't just described what happens?</li> <li>• Made reference to the effect it might have had on the audience?</li> <li>• Mentioned some of the technical features e.g. the sound and visual appearance?</li> <li>• Used the notes I made?</li> <li>• Checked my spelling and grammar?</li> </ul>
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# Keeley Hawes is a ray of sunshine

# in “The Durrells”

By Gerard O’Donovan 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**ITV** must have high hopes for “The Durrells”, a new six-part adaptation of naturalist Gerald Durrell’s enduringly popular memoir *My Family and Other Animals* and its two sequels. After other Sunday night dramas have failed to wrest the Sunday night initiative from the BBC’s *The Night Manager*, it would appear to be the perfect trump card. “The Durrells” may be up against the perennially popular *Antiques Roadshow*, but it has all the classic ingredients for Sunday night viewing: warmth, nostalgia, beautiful locations and a star, in Keeley Hawes, who’s been in the headlines this week for her surprise return in BBC Two’s *Line of Duty*.



In “The Durrells”, Nye has returned to a favourite subject with evident gusto and produced something of a gem. For one thing he confidently – not to say gleefully – cast off the chains of making a strictly faithful adaptation. The result is a series that’s not only sun-drenched and liberating, but also catches its source material’s high good humour without labouring it, and weaves an authentic sense of the innocent exoticism of the original.

Nye’s sharpest idea was to make it all more adult-orientated by bringing the role of matriarch Mrs Durrell (Keeley Hawes) to the fore. In previous adaptations Louisa Durrell was merely “Mother” a loving, eternally put-upon presence. Despite star billing (in the form of Hannah Gordon and Imelda Staunton) she remained mostly in the background, a facilitator, always playing second fiddle to her entertainingly precocious offspring.

Here a freshly reimagined, more spirited Louisa was brought centre screen to be a heroine in her own right. Her unique “journey” as a pioneering, try-anything-once widowed mother of an uncontrollably bright brood formed the backbone of the drama. And, as played by Hawes, she was an extra ray of sunshine in the shimmering Ionian sky.

Around her everything pivoted. From Nye’s comedic use of a villa more crumbling than anything Durrell ever depicted, to her children’s constantly misfiring efforts to orchestrate romantic entanglements for her. More importantly, this rebalancing of family relationships meant the potential for annoyance intrinsic to her variously gifted offspring – pretentious writer-to-be

Lawrence (Josh O'Connor), neurotic Margo (Daisy Waterstone), gun-toting Lesley (Callum Woodhouse) and nature-obsessed Gerald (Milo Parker) – was much ameliorated.



Add in sumptuous use of Corfu's ravishing scenery plus a measure of authenticity and respect for the locals by casting – can you believe it – Greek actors in Greek roles, and the overall effect became ever more magical. In particular the casting of Alexis Georgoulis as taxi driver Spiros was a smart choice, restoring this role from blustering buffoon (students of dubious cultural stereotyping might compare Brian Blessed's 1980s portrayal) to that of a much needed – and more subtly entertaining – guardian angel.

All in all, as feel-good family fare goes, this was tip-top. More than enough to lift the spirits, salve the soul and make us dive for a laptop to book our very own bit of bliss in the sun.