

## **MEDIA STUDIES A-LEVEL – SEPTEMBER 2019**

### ***Getting ready for your course:***

As a Media Studies student, and therefore a media producer, analyst and commentator, it is important to be familiar with as many different types of media as possible: film, TV, radio, websites, social media, games, newspapers, magazines, posters, etc.

It is important to spend time this summer boosting your media literacy, and especially those forms and platforms with which you are less familiar. Have you seen many foreign films or even a silent movie? Have you read a niche magazine like *Mollie Makes* or *Total Carp*? Have you listened to late-night radio or radio drama, or even a radio soap like *The Archers*? Have you checked out any trailers for forthcoming movie and game releases; looked at what's trending on Twitter or gone viral on YouTube; watched any reality TV; or read a tabloid and broadsheet on the same day to see how differently they present the same news (or very different news!)?

Over the summer, you should watch, read, play or listen to at least **one each** of the following:

- A film in a language other than English
- A broadsheet newspaper
- A tabloid newspaper
- A specialist magazine
- A music video in a genre of which you are not a fan
- A radio drama or soap
- A video game you have not played before
- A TV drama or soap
- An online magazine
- An entertainment website

You should keep a brief note of what the text was, any interesting features or content, whether you thought it effective, etc, as this will form the basis of a discussion early in the course.

It would also be helpful if you watch one or both film versions of *War of the Worlds* (or even read the book!)

### **I also recommend that you read online:**

Semiotics for beginners by Daniel Chandler (at least the *introduction* and *signs* sections) – these are difficult but have a go!