



8th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: GCSE English Literature

As I am sure you are already aware, in English lessons over the past term, your child has been studying texts in preparation for exams in GCSE English Literature.

After careful consideration as a school, we have decided to enter all Year 10 students for their English Literature GCSE examinations on 22nd and 25th May 2018. This is something that we have been thinking about for several months and we now feel confident we have sufficient understanding and knowledge of all the factors involved to make such a decision.

We have informed the students in assembly this week and they will have plenty of opportunity to discuss this further with their English teacher over the next few days. However, we also wanted to write to parents and carers to explain the policy.

Entering students for the exam earlier will be advantageous for a number of reasons, but primarily because they will be able to devote their full attention towards this one subject this year. From an English perspective, this then means that in Year 11 students will be able to focus entirely on their English Language exams in lessons and during revision. Teaching Literature and Language separately over the two years ought to enable a deeper understanding of both subjects and, we believe, provides students with a greater chance of success in both.

Additionally, because the new GCSE specification requires students to study a wider range of texts for English Literature than in previous years, it will benefit them to be able to focus entirely on this one subject as opposed to trying to revise all the texts towards the end of Year 11, when they will also have seven or eight other subjects to revise for. Not having to revise for English Literature in Year 11 will, in turn, free up valuable time for these other subjects in Year 11.

At the same time, we will have more capacity as a school to support Year 10 with extra revision sessions and support in preparing for the Literature exams this summer than when they come to Year 11 with all the other subjects to worry about as well. With all the focus and support we will be providing for students – along with your own support – we expect the vast majority of students to secure a grade this summer that is at least as high as that which they would have achieved if they were to sit the exams at the end of Year 11. However, we will ensure that any student who would benefit from re-sitting the English Literature exams again in Year 11 is able to do so. Our guiding principle will be to give every individual student the best chance of fulfilling

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their potential. Decisions on this will be made early in September 2018, as soon as we have had time to properly analyse results.

We will be writing again later this half-term with more details of what the exams entail, where you can find revision materials and other information to enable you to help prepare your child for the exams. For the time being, we would just like students to continue working hard in lessons and for homework.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Mills', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mrs E. Mills
Deputy Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Jones', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ms N. Jones
Head of English