

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear parents and carers,

As outlined in our letter last week, year 10 students will be sitting their English Literature GCSE at the end of this year. The course has now been covered completely over year 9 and the first term of year 10 so we have over 4 months to hone exam technique, practise and revise. Students have responded really positively in English lessons and are keen to get started with their independent study.

Homework will be centred on activities that act as revision for the exam and there are Personal Learning Checklists available for English Literature on the school website in the curriculum section. Revision packs will be added to the website within the next two weeks to further consolidate the classwork and homework students are being set. If you are interested in purchasing any revision books yourself to aide your child, we can recommend (and AQA – the examining body recommend) Cambridge - Brighter Thinking - GCSE English Literature for AQA Student Books. They are available for the different sections of the papers: An Inspector Calls, The Sign of the Four, Macbeth and the poetry (we study the conflict cluster). Also, in order to support students, and ensure that they feel prepared and confident for their exams, we have put together a revision and assessment schedule.

The revision and assessment schedule will, of course, be complemented by regular assessments in class and the opportunity to improve and respond to feedback. We would greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your child to attend the revision sessions and to utilise the revision resources provided. The revision sessions will be focused on exam technique; typical questions that can be expected on the papers; and guidance on respected interpretations of the texts. They will start on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January and run through until the Easter break in this format. We will reassess the most effective way to run further revision after this point.

Revision sessions 3.30pm – 4.30pm in the Lower Hexagon:

- Tuesday – An Inspector Calls
- Wednesday – The Sign of the Four
- Thursday – Poetry
- Friday – Macbeth

Mock Exams:

- Paper 2 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2hrs 15mins
- Paper 1 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 1hr 45mins

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Sessions to prepare for mock exams – looking at the different sections of the papers in detail:

- Thurs 25th January - periods 2 and 3
- Wednesday 14th March - periods 4 and 5

We have staged the mock papers in relation to what the students will be revising in lessons at that time to help them focus on one area at a time.

Students will also be spending a full day with their English class teacher on the following dates for exam preparation:

- Friday 16th February
- Monday 30th May

We will have further blocks of revision time during the school day, with their class teacher, nearer to the exam also.

We know that some students are a little anxious about the exams, but this is only natural and indeed one of the advantages of taking exams in one subject this year is that it will help them prepare for the rigours of year 11. It is important that we work together as teachers, parents and carers to ensure we get the right balance between encouraging students to work hard and ensuring they do not get too stressed. With this in mind, please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher if you have any concerns.

Many thanks for your help and support,

Emma Mills – Deputy Headteacher

Nicky Jones – Head of English