



April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: GCSE English Literature

As I am sure you are already aware, in English lessons starting this half term, your child has begun studying texts in preparation for exams in GCSE English Literature.

After careful consideration as a school, we have decided to enter all students for their English Literature GCSE examination in June of Year 10. This is something that we have given careful consideration and we now feel confident we have sufficient understanding and knowledge of all the factors involved to know it is the right decision for the students.

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 in Year 10. 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.

In preparation for the Literature GCSE it is imperative that students have a good understanding of each of the texts; their historical and social context; and the main themes and ideas that run through them. In order to embed this knowledge in Year 9, so as to free students' minds up to concentrate on the analytical skills needed in the exam in Year 10, we are putting in place a homework system throughout Year 9 that is based on this knowledge acquisition. This will be done through set weekly tasks based on the *Knowledge Organisers* for the texts they are studying this year (*An Inspector Calls* and *A Christmas Carol*) and this will continue in Year 10 with the texts they are studying then. Your child will be asked to learn specific information and will be tested

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on it the following week. The relevant *Knowledge Organisers* for Year 9 are available for you to see on the school website and this should be the expected homework for your child in English.

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

Yours faithfully,

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

Ms N. Jones
Head of English