



29 August 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Y10 ENGLISH LITERATURE EARLY ENTRY

For the last three years, in order to alleviate the pressure of students sitting so many examinations at the end of Year 11, we have entered all Year 10 students for the literature exam. The results have been consistently exceptional, with most achieving their target grade, and over a third of them exceeding their target, some by up to three grades.

Our classes have the advantage of starting their GCSE English Literature course at the beginning of Year 9. Sitting the exam at the end of Year 10 should not only ease the pressure of sitting all subjects together in the summer of the final school year, but also tackle the very real issue of students forgetting the immense amount of content required to sit the Literature exam. It also means that time in Year 11 English will be dedicated to preparing for the English language exam. It should be noted that most employers and further education establishments stipulate that a grade 4 in English Language is required as a minimum, whilst some companies require a grade 5 or even a 6. If students do not achieve a grade 4, there is a requirement that they continue this at college.

With the exams taking place at the end of May and beginning of June next year, the completion and quality of homework is absolutely vital this year and will be focused on revision tasks. Students will also be required to sit four formal internal assessments as follows:

- **Blood Brothers extract into essay – week commencing 2 October 2023**
- **Poetry anthology – single poem analysis and comparison essay - week commencing 15 January 2024**
- **A Christmas Carol essay – week commencing 11 March 2024**
- **Shakespeare extract and essay question – week commencing 22 April 2024**

We are still waiting for dates for any local production of Blood Brothers but in the meantime, we have booked internal performances as follows:

A Christmas Carol - 14 December 2023
Romeo and Juliet - 14 March 2024
Macbeth - 15 March 2024

The official exams take place on 13 May and 20 May 2024 so we ask parents to be mindful of these key dates.

We welcome your continued support with such a decision and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C E Lane
Assistant Headteacher and Head of English