



10 September 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Y10 ENGLISH LITERATURE EARLY ENTRY

For the last four 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 30 September 2024**
- **Poetry anthology – single poem analysis and comparison essay - week commencing 13 January 2025**
- **A Christmas Carol essay – week commencing 10 March 2025**
- **Shakespeare extract and essay question – week commencing 21 April 2025**

Dates for performances are as follows:

Blood Brothers - 4 September 2024

A Christmas Carol - 24 February 2025

Romeo and Juliet - 10 March 2025

Macbeth - 13 March 2025

The official exams take place on 13 May and 20 May, 2025 so we ask parents to be mindful of these key dates.

In terms of revision, students have to be exceptionally organised when it comes keeping their notes safe over the course of two years. They will often be set homework that require the completion of flashcards and past papers. Teachers will offer advice on revision techniques but it is useful for each student to have:

- Flashcards – preferably on binders (these may be purchased in most supermarkets, stationery shops, on Amazon or in school)
- An A4 ring binder

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- Plastic wallets and/or plastic envelope wallets
- Highlighters

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C E Lane".

Mrs C E Lane
Assistant Headteacher
Curriculum Area Leader of English