



4 September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

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 many students exceeding their target, some by up to three grades.

Our classes have the advantage 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 in May 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 29 September 2025**
- **Poetry anthology – single poem analysis and comparison essay - week commencing 8 December 2025**
- **A Christmas Carol essay – week commencing 2 February 2026**
- **Shakespeare extract and essay question – week commencing 23 March 2026**

Dates for performances are as follows:

Blood Brothers 19 November 2025 – The Lowry
A Christmas Carol 16 December 2025 – The Octagon
Romeo and Juliet 2 March 2026 in school
Macbeth 9 March 2026 in school

The official exams take place on 11 May and 19 May 2026, so we ask parents to be mindful of these key dates.

Continued overleaf/...

In terms of revision, students have to be exceptionally organised when it comes to 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)
- Lever arch folder
- Plastic wallets and/or plastic envelope wallets
- Highlighters

Please be aware that our Bishop Rawstorne English Literature revision website contains a wealth of guidance and activities to support with effective revision and can be found via the student area of the school website and the following link:
<https://bishoprawstornecroston.sharepoint.com/sites/EnglishLiterature>

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs Dawson
Curriculum leader of English