



29 August 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Y10 ENGLISH LITERATURE EARLY ENTRY – COURSE COMMENCEMENT AT THE START OF Y9

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 Year 10, the completion and quality of homework is absolutely vital this year and will be focused predominantly on revision tasks. Students will also be required to sit three formal internal assessments as follows:

- **Blood Brothers extract into essay – week commencing 30 October 2023**
- **Poetry anthology – single poem analysis and comparison essay - week commencing 5 February 2024**
- **A Christmas Carol essay – week commencing 20 May 2024**

We would be grateful if you were mindful of these dates in terms of encouraging your child to revise accordingly and seek support if needed.

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