



3 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 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 3 November 2025**
- **Poetry anthology – single poem analysis - week commencing 26 January 2026**
- **Single poem and comparison essay – week commencing 11 May 2026**

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.

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 requires 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

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Dawson  
Curriculum Leader of English