



12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

### **RE: English Language & English Literature GCSE Preparation**

I hope this letter finds you well. As your child embarks on their final year of GCSE English, I would like to provide an overview of the curriculum, key assessments, and support available to ensure they are fully prepared for their exams.

For students achieving a Grade 4 or better in English is critical for their future success. This can be achieved in either Language or Literature, and if a student achieves a Grade 4 or better in both, then it is double weighted, allowing for two GCSEs from one subject! Therefore, revising and preparing for English is hugely valuable to ensure success and open doors in the future.

#### **1. Curriculum Overview**

The Year 11 English curriculum is designed to develop both analytical and creative skills. Students will study the following components:

- **English Literature:** This will involve revision of key texts studied in Year 10 [ Romeo and Juliet; Jekyll and Hyde or A Christmas Carol; An Inspector Calls], and study of the Power and Conflict poetry from the GCSE anthology.

**Please see** some recommended revision guides outlined below for some areas of the course students can find more challenging, should you wish to purchase them. Please rest assured that students will be well prepared within lessons and additional resources will be provided throughout the year.

#### Recommended revision guides:

1. The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde – Text Guide – ISBN 978-1782943082
  2. Romeo and Juliet – Text Guide - ISBN 978-1841461182
  3. GCSE English AQA Poetry Guide - Power & Conflict Anthology – ISBN 978-1782943617
- **English Language:** Students will focus on reading comprehension, critical analysis of nonfiction and literary texts, and developing their writing skills in various forms, such as descriptive, narrative, and persuasive writing.

#### **2. Key Assessments**

Assessments will take place in class throughout the Autumn term and the PPE window will be in January. Assessments will be used to monitor progress and provide targeted feedback for improvement. The main assessments are as follows:

- **In class assessment:** These will take place at various points of the academic year and details will be shared on 'Class Charts' with resources to support revision. Assessments will cover both English Literature and English Language. The assessment windows and assessment content for the autumn term are as follows:

#### English Language:

- Paper 1 Section A – 30th September – 11th October
- Paper 1 Section B – 4th November – 15th November

- *Paper 2 Section A* - 1st December – 13th December

English Literature:

- *Romeo and Juliet* essay question – 30th September – 11th October
  - *An Inspector Calls* – Monday 4th November – Friday 15th November
  - *Poetry comparative question* - 1st December – 13th December
- **January Pre-public exams:** These will be conducted under exam conditions. These will be used to track progress and ensure students are exam ready. Further details will be provided closer to the time.

### 3. Independent Revision

Success in English requires consistent revision throughout the year. Students should:

- **Revisit Key Texts:** Regularly review literature texts, make detailed notes, and practise essay writing. Revision resources will be provided through 'Class Charts' and Microsoft Teams. Additionally, use of sites like Massolit - [MASSOLIT – Short video lectures from the world's best academics](#) and PhysicsMaths tutor - [English Revision - PMT \(physicsandmathstutor.com\)](#) is recommended to support with revision.
- **Past Papers:** Complete past exam papers in both English Language and Literature. This will help students familiarise themselves with exam-style questions and timing. In addition to the AQA web page, students can also access past exam papers on PhysicsMaths tutor. *Language:* [GCSE / IGCSE English Language Past Papers - PMT \(physicsandmathstutor.com\)](#); *Literature:* [GCSE / IGCSE English Literature Past Papers - PMT \(physicsandmathstutor.com\)](#)
- **Vocabulary and Writing Practice:** Encourage your child to expand their vocabulary and practise writing in different forms to strengthen their language skills.

### 4. Parental Involvement

Your support at home can make a big difference. Encouraging your child to read widely, discuss the texts they are studying, and help them manage their time effectively will be invaluable as they prepare for their exams. Additionally, helping your child to learn quotations by testing them, supporting them to make flashcard or displaying quotations around their home will facilitate greater knowledge retention.

I understand that preparing for GCSEs can be stressful for students. If your child is feeling overwhelmed or anxious about their English studies, please let us know. I am confident that, with hard work and the support available, your child will be well-prepared to succeed in their English GCSEs.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or assessments, or if your child needs additional help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Chadenga  
Head of English