

English Literature for Next Year

I am writing to you to clarify next year's arrangements with regards to X's English Literature GCSE. Hopefully this letter will allow you to support X further in their revision in the coming 11 months and ensure they make the best start to the course as possible.

As you may be aware X will sit their GCSE at the end of Year 10. This will give them an early taster of GCSE examinations and help ease the pressure of examinations taken in Year 11. Each class will study separate texts towards their GCSE; therefore it is important you are clear on what will benefit your child in terms of revision. As a department we will be supplying all pupils with a research based task around their 19th Century Novel and Shakespeare text for the summer break. Pupils will be assessing this as a class on their first lesson in Year 10; hence I would ask that you support your child in completing this task as you would any other piece of homework.

Following the completion of this research task pupils should be able to discuss key characters, quotations relating to these characters, themes present within the text as well as any contextual factors which influenced its writing or the time that it is set. Each of these are important assessment objectives within the English Literature GCSEs and an inability to have this information to hand could result in not achieving a good GCSE grade at the end of the year. By visiting the AQA English Literature website (<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>) or our departments Twitter (@StEdsEnglish) and Instagram (@st_eds_english) pupils will have access to past papers, model answers and mark schemes that will help them to understand what is required of them in Year 10.

The exams themselves are English Literature Paper 1 (1hr 45 Mins – **Shakespeare and 19th Century Literature**) and English Literature Paper 2 (2hr 15 mins – **Modern Novel and Poetry**). Pupils have already studied the Poetry component of the course and need to approach the other three aspects with the diligence and maturity that they have displayed during the preparation for their SATS. The 19th Century Novel and Shakespeare will be the first aspect they study in September, followed by the Modern Novel and revisiting Power and Conflict Poetry after Christmas. The 19th Century Novel and Shakespeare texts X will be studying are.....and..... I hope you will join us in September for the parent's information evening where I will discuss in further depth the English Literature course and outline the requirements from your child. Having a copy of the texts and associated revision guides at home is essential, and a full outline of these and how they can be purchased through the school will be available at the parent's information evening.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact either myself, Miss Hammond or X's teacher to discuss further. I am sure you realise how important this GCSE grade is for students when it comes to applying for future jobs and college courses so may I thank you in advance for all of your support of both your child and St. Edmund's.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Were

Head of English