



26th January 2017

RE: GCSE English Literature Revision

Dear Parent / Carer

In the English department we believe that the key to success is threefold: high-quality teaching; student engagement and parental support. Therefore, I am writing to inform you of the specific details of the English Literature examination papers; what your child needs to be doing to be effectively prepared for them, thereby enabling you to understand how best to support your child in his/her preparations. All of these factors, alongside targeted revision in the classroom, should provide the best outcomes for your son/daughter in the Summer.

One of the best ways for your child to be prepared for the examinations, is for them to have their own copies of the set texts and to have re-read them at least once. In case your child does not have their copy, details have been provided below of which editions are best to purchase:

**Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel.
Section A: Shakespeare.**

Students will have either been taught: '**Romeo and Juliet**' or '**Macbeth**'. We strongly recommend that students purchase these editions of the play to aid their revision – as they have the full text but also revision notes the whole way through:

'**CGP *Romeo and Juliet – the Complete Play (with notes)*** ISBN-13: 978-1841461229

'**CGP *Macbeth - the Complete Play (with notes)*** ISBN-13: 978-1841461205.

Section B: 'The Sign of the Four' Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The edition used in class is the **Collins Classic** Version: ISBN-13: 978-0008110468

A helpful revision guide is: *The Sign of the Four: York Notes for GCSE (9-1)* by Ms Jo Heathcote: ISBN-13: 978-1292138138

In order to effectively revise for both parts of the paper, students need to re-read the two texts; focus on notes in their relevant exercise books and, if possible use the revision guides to enhance their understanding of the plot, context, themes, characters and the writer's craft. They need to practise planning and writing examination-style questions. (Specimen papers are attached with this letter to help students do this.)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Section A: 'An Inspector Calls'

The edition of the play that is used in the classroom is the **Heinemann** edition: ISBN-13: 978-0435232825 and a useful revision guide is: **CGP GCSE English Text Guide: 'An Inspector Calls' J.B. Priestley** ISBN -13: 978-1841461205.

As with the previous paper, students need to re-read the text so that they have a thorough understanding of the plot and use their classwork notes – and revision guides, if possible – to enable them to be able to write effectively about context, characterisation, themes and the writer's craft.

Section B: Poetry Anthology (Power and Conflict)

Students have studied 15 poems from the '**Power and Conflict**' **AQA Anthology**. All of these poems have been taught to the students in class and each should have thorough annotations and copious notes. Students need to practise comparing how the poems present power and conflict and, could revise by using revision guides such as:

New GCSE English Literature AQA Poetry Guide: Power & Conflict Anthology - for the Grade 9-1 Course ISBN-13: 978-1782943617

Section C: Unseen Poetry

The last part of the paper tests students' abilities to apply the skills that they have been taught in class to two poems which they will never have seen before. Students need to practise their responses to poetry by going through the process they will have been taught in class. Namely: understanding the story of the poem first before peeling back the layers of meaning and analysing how a poet has used techniques to create particular effects. A useful revision guide is:

CGP GCSE AQA 'Unseen Poetry Guide' ISBN -13: 978-1782943709.

Again, attached to this email are the specimen papers which the exam board have published and these will also be placed on 'Show My Homework'. Students will be encouraged to: view the papers in their entirety; understand the need to locate the questions relevant to them; learn how to manage their time effectively and practise planning and writing under those time constraints.

All of the revision activities which we are suggesting your child undertakes, will fully complement what they will be revising in class with their English teachers. I have also attached with this email the Literature Revision sessions which are taking place after school on a Thursday.

Should you have any questions relating to the information contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Webber
Key Stage 4 English Leader