



12th October 2020

Year 11 GCSE English

Dear Parent/Carer of Year 11

We understand that there is a lot of stress regarding GCSEs presently, regarding the lost learning time and uncertainty of this year's exam series. We would like to assure you that the English Department has adjusted our curriculum to meet the needs of students at this difficult time.

Some of the actions we have taken include:

- Accessible entry tasks called 'Do Now's' that target key literacy skills students need to excel on AO4 in Literature and AO6 in Language (Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation). Other 'Do Now' tasks encourage students to revise the GCSE Literature texts they have studied, ensuring that they are recalling key information needed for success in the exams.
- Modelled responses relating to the content to support students with accessing assessment questions. These models demonstrate the style of writing required and encourage students to mimic phrasing and stylistic choices in their own writing.
- Accessible homework to encourage students to continue engaging with Show My Homework. This homework teaches words that will broaden the vocabulary of students in preparation for their exams, providing them opportunities to achieve higher grades.
- Executing a robust 'Countdown Plan' during term four and five that will revise all learning from Year 10 and 11 to prepare students for GCSE Literature and Language exams.
- Practicing robust assessment practices using fortnightly SIR tasks and end of term assessments that are moderated within the department and against examples from other schools. We are also embedding delayed assessments across the year to assess students progress as they revise and prepare for exams.

In addition, we would like to inform you that AQA have made changes to the exam structure for 2021, please [click here](#) to view them.

Essentially, the exam board has given schools the choice to remove one of *An Inspector Calls*, *A Christmas Carol*, or the *Poetry Anthology* from the exam series. As a result of these changes, we have made the decision to remove *An Inspector Calls* from our curriculum for the current Year 11 cohort.

This decision has been made with careful consideration and for the benefit of all students in the cohort.

We have also provided, for your reference, a curriculum map of what Year 11 have covered and will cover in the coming months. Careful planning and organisation have allowed us to maintain flexibility and a comfortable pace with our learning, as you will see reflected in the plan. Please, rest assured knowing that we are on track to complete all the components in preparation for the exams and in fact, have time to revise and prepare with students leading up to exams.

Should you have any questions or concerns with regards to your child's learning in Year 11, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at mpaskell@swr.school.

Kind Regards

Ms Paskell
Acting Deputy Head of English and Literacy Coordinator