



Headteacher: Mrs Lucy Miles

16th December 2022

Dear parents and carers

Re: Year 11 Update - December 2022

As we are nearing the end of the Autumn term and preparing for some well deserved rest over the Christmas period, I wanted to share with you some important information and ask for your support in preparing your child for their mock exams in February as well as their formal examinations in May/June 2023.

Year 11 students have really matured over the last term and most of them are taking their studies very seriously. I want to thank you and your children for stepping up to this challenge. This term we have studied Romeo and Juliet, sat mocks and revised poetry as well as A Christmas Carol. We have now completed the whole course and on our return will focus on revision and exam practice.

The summer examination schedule has been published by AQA so I can now share with you that the GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature exams will be as follows:

Date	Exam	Components
17th May 2023 am	Literature Paper 1	Romeo and Juliet A Christmas Carol
24th May 2023 am	Literature Paper 2	Blood Brothers Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology Unseen Poetry
5th June 2023 am	Language Paper 1	Reading Fiction Descriptive and Narrative Writing
12th June 2023 am	Language Paper 2	Reading Literary Nonfiction Transactional Writing

Even though May seems far away, when we return after Christmas, we will have 18 weeks left (15 during term time) which gives us approximately 60 English lessons. When we break this down to each component, this gives us only about 6.5 hours for each one. This is why it is crucial that your child comes into school each day and tries their absolute best in each lesson and each student completes every homework task, as this will be the time to practise and revise essential skills and knowledge.

If your child is struggling with homework, please encourage them to attend the English Homework Support club every Wednesday in H109 or the Homework Club after school. Please also encourage them to use the materials on Google Classroom, learn on GCSEPod or revise using their CGP revision guides. Last half term I also shared with you the 28 weeks exam revision schedule and I wanted to remind you that this can be found on your child's google classroom as well as here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nw_hvf58AXQse7KxJdHIPq6VunNgcE_7/view?usp=sharing. We are now on week 22.

We know that Christmas is a time to relax and recuperate, therefore we want to set minimal homework for our Year 11 students. However, we are also very aware that this can be an ideal time to revise and refresh some of the knowledge that students might have forgotten. This is why I would like to ask you to support your child in completing their Christmas homework.



Compulsory: Read A Christmas Carol again. Make notes on each stave: characters, what happens, 3 major quotations and any questions. In addition 20 points of Bedrock the week before we return.

Challenge: Read Romeo and Juliet again. Make notes on each scene: characters, what happens, 3 major quotations and any questions.

Super Challenge: Read Blood Brothers again. Make notes on each act: characters, what happens, 3 major quotations and any questions.

All students have been given copies of A Christmas Carol and all the texts are available on Google Classroom. There are also audiobooks of A Christmas Carol and Romeo and Juliet. Please note that all homework must be handwritten (unless your child has word processor access arrangements) and any plagiarism (copying word for word from the Internet) will be classed as lack of homework. You also might wish to watch some of the adaptations of the books. We would recommend Zeffirelli, Baz Luhrman or The National Theatre version of Romeo and Juliet, Jim Carrey and The Muppet Christmas Carol (please note the new Netflix version is very different to the actual book) and YouTube versions of Blood Brothers.

When we return after Christmas Year 11 will attend a performance of A Christmas Carol here in The Highfield School which should help them greatly with revision. We will also be setting structured homework - some CGP Poetry Anthology Workbook and 1 essay each week. Please, do encourage your child to get into a great routine straight away. This will really help them in the long run.

We will also step up our intervention programme in light of the mock exam results students sat in November. Please support your child by reminding them to attend whenever you receive a ClassChart notification from us. English intervention runs every Wednesday after school by invitation only.

If you are at all worried about your child in English or would like any advice, please contact your child's English teacher or you might wish to discuss anything at the parents evening which will take place on the 26th January 2023.

On behalf of all Year 11 teachers: Mrs Kench, Mrs Hutton, Mr Wilcox, Ms Ashton and Mrs Jones-Nugent, I would like to thank you for your continuous support and to wish you a healthy, warm and restful Christmas break.

Merry Christmas!

Ms M Bochnak-Sales
Head of English
Literacy Lead