

Monday 17th September 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Year 10 Early Entry for English Literature

As you will know, English is an important part of your child's education. The English department at Trinity Catholic College have been incredibly successful in recent years with fantastic results at GCSE. However, we are always looking for ways to move forward and maximize the chances for our students. Through consultation with staff, students and the governing body, last year we decided to give students the opportunity to sit their English Literature GCSE at the end of Year 10. Our current Year 11s were the first cohort to sit their exam early this summer and we are delighted with the results. Over 70% of students achieved a pass at grade 4. By studying for the two GCSEs separately, students are allowed to concentrate on one GCSE at a time while ensuring teaching and intervention are tailored accordingly. To facilitate this, your child has already spent Year 9 studying the texts in preparation for the course this year, therefore ensuring they still have the full two years of study leading up to their GCSE exam. Once complete, students will have the remainder of Year 10 and the entirety of Year 11 to concentrate solely on GCSE English Language. Finally, any students who would like to resit English Literature in Year 11 can be accommodated where appropriate, providing them with two opportunities to achieve the required grade for their future path and to ensure they have achieved their full potential.

To support your child in school, the number of timetabled English lessons students attend are 5 hours per week. This means that your child has a one hour English lesson daily. By dedicating such a significant amount of time to the subject, we are certain that your child will be sufficiently equipped for the rigours of the GCSE course. In addition to this, we will also offer after school classes this year and structured interventions will be put in place to raise the attainment of students who require further support. Moreover, students will also be completing a weekly Literature activity, planned by the English department, during form period to further reinforce and consolidate the hard work that they put in during their English lessons.

To further prepare your child for their Literature GCSE, they will sit two practice exams prior to the external examination- the first practice paper will be sat in December this year. Electronic study guides will be provided by the school. Students will be studying Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and a range of poems from the Love and Relationships cluster in an anthology provided by our exam board, AQA. Further information and support is available in the PLANET section of the student planner.

Your co-operation in encouraging your child to take responsibility for their learning would be greatly appreciated. We are dedicated to helping your child develop the necessary skills to enable them to achieve their full potential in this subject, whilst applying these skills to their other examination subjects.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Hall (Director of English) Miss Z Ahmed (Lead Practitioner for English and Teaching and Learning)