

January 2018

Dear Parent/guardian,

We are planning for your son/daughter to take his/her English Literature GCSE exam in the summer of 2019. Therefore, we would like to communicate with you some key information that will assist you and your son/daughter in achieving success in this important subject.

Below is an outline of what students will be focusing on in Year 9 and 10 to prepare them for this qualification:

| Term commencement date               | Student focus  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| February 2018: Literature Paper One  | Shakespeare play: Much Ado About Nothing.  |
| May 2018: Literature Paper Two       | GCSE poetry anthology and unseen poetry  |
| September 2018: Literature Paper Two | Modern Text: Animal Farm or Lord of the Flies  |
| November 2018: Literature Paper One  | 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Novel: Frankenstein or The Sign of Four                                 |
| January 2019-May 2019                | Revision of all four texts for the exam in May 2019<br>Mock exams to prepare for the final exams |

In order to assist your son/daughter even further, we recommend they purchase copies of all the texts studied in class. They should be reading these on a regular basis as the exams are 'closed book' – therefore, they need to be able to remember a multitude of significant quotes. If you are unsure of which texts your child is studying, please consult their English teacher.

#### The study of Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

In order to be fully prepared for the GCSE English Literature exam your son/daughter will need to have a full understanding of the play and Shakespeare's craft. Therefore we are advising students to purchase their own copy of the text. Purchasing copies allows students to make their language analysis notes directly into their copy of the play. This will then become a useful and vital resource when it comes to revision before their exam. We have copies of the texts in school; however, students will not be able to write in school copies. The text we recommend is 'Much Ado About Nothing': No Fear: Much Ado About Nothing (Sparknotes No Fear Shakespeare) as this version comes with modern English. This will support their understanding of the play and key themes.

It is vital that attendance is kept to a maximum as your son/daughter may miss important information and skills. However, if any lessons are unavoidably missed, please ensure that they see their English teacher at their earliest convenience to avoid being disadvantaged in their learning.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's English teacher via email or telephone.

Yours faithfully,

*Mrs Robson*

Mrs Robson  
English Curriculum Lead