

Dear Year 10 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the GCSE English and English Literature course at Graveney. All students in Year 10 have made a fantastic start to GCSE English and I hope they continue to maintain such high standards over the next two years.

Over the next two years, all Year 10 students will be studying for the AQA English Literature and English Language GCSE. They will sit two separate qualifications and be independently awarded 2 GCSEs: English Language and English Literature. There is no setting within North 3-5 and Central/ East pathways and **all students sit the same exam papers. This means that there is no limit to the grade any student can achieve in English Language and English Literature.**

Please see below for details of the exam papers:

GCSE English

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 50% of GCSE Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	Reading and responding to a fiction text	Writing to describe/ narrate
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 50% of GCSE Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	Reading and responding to non-fiction texts	Writing to persuade/ argue
Spoken Language (speaking and listening) Assessment Students will receive a separate grade for this assessment	Students will give a presentation on a topic of their choice	

GCSE English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel 40% of GCSE Exam: 1 hour, 45 minutes.	Shakespeare <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> or <i>Macbeth</i>	19th Century Novel <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson	
Paper 2 : Modern Texts and Poetry 60% of GCSE Exam: 2 hours, 15 minutes	Modern Prose of Drama <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by JB Priestley or <i>Leave Taking</i> by Winsome Pinnock	Poetry Anthology Power and Conflict poetry	Unseen Poetry

Key Information

Students will sit assessments exams in April and July of Year 10, as well as December and March in Year 11.

The qualifications are 100% exam, which will be sat at the end of Year 11.

Students will be graded using numbers 9-1; the number 9 is highest possible grade.

Both exams for Literature GCSE are closed book which means students can't take copies of the texts into the exams, so they will have to learn a range of quotations.

All students will be given a copy of each set examination text but may bring in their own copies if they wish to.

How to Support Students at Home

- Please ensure your child is completing all homework set to a high standard and keeping their English folder in order.
- Please make sure your child has the correct equipment for English lessons and has packed the correct folder or book in their bag (**most students will have two separate folders for English as they are taught by two teachers**)
- Please purchase and encourage your child to use the CGP revision guides and workbooks for all areas of the GCSE English Language and English Literature exams.

The Importance of Reading

Reading regularly at home has a huge impact on performance at school as well as giving students a break from screen time.

Like all of us, we all want our students to read more for pleasure so how can we convince them that reading can be a joyful experience, a form of escapism and good for the soul? Well, here are just a few suggestions for you to try at home:

- Let them see you reading and talking about books.
- Share an online newspaper article with them and have a chat about it- all newspapers are online and free!
- Encourage them to visit our school library. It's open before school, at lunchtimes and after school and is packed with a fantastic range of diverse book.
- Choose an audiobook you can listen to
- Take them to a bookshop or a local library and spend time choosing a book that appeals to them. Please see our ***KS4 Reading Recommendations*** booklet attached.
- Finally, make reading positive. Mention it in passing, talk about it for a few minutes every day and one day, when you least expect it, you might just find them curled up on the sofa with a book that caught their imagination.

Please look out for our end of term KS4 English bulletins in which we celebrate students' work, reflect on the term and update you about the term ahead.

Kind regards,

Ms Khodabacksh-Jones

(KS4 English Coordinator)