

9th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

In order to help you support your son/daughter in English I have put together this parent information pack about the course.

The courses we are following are GCSE English Language (code 8700) and GCSE English Literature (code 8702) from AQA.

English Language - This qualification consists of 3 units as shown below. Paper 1 looks at creative reading and writing. This paper aims to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively. The students will be provided with an extract from a literature fiction text from the 20th or 21st century. The exam for English Language Paper 1 is 5th June 2018 (am).

Paper 2 looks at writer’s viewpoints and perspectives. This paper aims to develop students’ insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. The students will be provided with 2 sources, one from the 19th century and one from the 20th or 21st century. The exam for English Language Paper 2 is 8th June 2018 (am).

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	+	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	+	Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one literature fiction text <p>Section B: Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> descriptive or narrative writing 		<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text <p>Section B: Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing to present a viewpoint 		<p>What's assessed</p> <p>(AO7–AO9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presenting responding to questions and feedback use of standard English
<p>Assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50 % of GCSE 		<p>Assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50 % of GCSE 		<p>Assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teacher set throughout course marked by teacher separate endorsement (0 % weighting of GCSE)
<p>Questions</p> <p>Reading (40 marks) (25 %)</p> <p>– one single text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks) 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks) <p>Writing (40 marks) (25 %)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) 		<p>Questions</p> <p>Reading (40 marks) (25 %)</p> <p>– two linked texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks) 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks) <p>Writing (40 marks) (25 %)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) 		

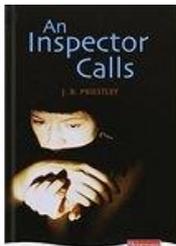
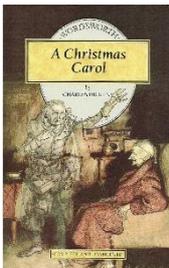
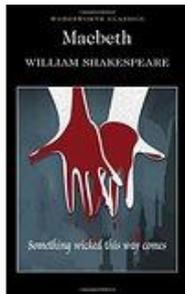
The final unit is a non-examination assessment where students have to perform a presentation. Students completed this presentation in Year 10 and it carries a separate endorsement so does not contribute to their GCSE grade.

English Literature - This qualification consists of 2 units as shown below. Paper 1 looks at Shakespeare and the 19th century novel. We are studying *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The exam for English Literature Paper 1 is 22nd May 2018 (am).

Paper 2 looks at modern texts and poetry. We are studying *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley and the Power and Conflict poetry cluster. The exam for English Literature Paper 2 is 25th May 2018 (am).

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	+ Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakespeare • The 19th-century novel 	<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern texts • Poetry • Unseen poetry
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 64 marks • 40% of GCSE 	<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes • 96 marks • 60% of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.</p> <p>Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.</p>	<p>Questions</p> <p>Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.</p> <p>Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.</p> <p>Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.</p>

In terms of resources to support your child, these are what we either use in class or recommend. Students will have read these set texts in class but it is worthwhile students having their own copies so that they can reread the texts at their own pace and annotate key ideas.

Books	<p>Set Text: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by J. B. Priestley</p> 	<p>Set Text: <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens</p> 	<p>Set Text: <i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare</p> 
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Websites	<p>www.samlearning.co.uk</p> <p>The students all have individual logins for this website and it provides revision and tests for most subjects. It has been proven to help students go up a grade.</p>	<p>www.AQA.org.uk</p> <p>This is the exam board’s website – very useful for going through past exam papers and mark schemes</p>	<p>www.bbc.co.uk/education</p> <p>BBC Bitesize is a fantastic site for clear straightforward information about the topics covered – really helps when there are areas students are struggling to understand.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff/videos</p> <p>Mr Bruff is an English teacher who has released revision videos on YouTube. They are great for getting more information and tips on key topics.</p>
Other resources	<p>Newspapers Reading widely is really important in order to pass English. Reading a range of articles and discussing what they are about is a really useful way to help to prepare for the examination.</p>	<p>Revision Guides A set of revision guides have now been ordered for each year 11 student and will be distributed next week.</p> 	<p>Class workbooks that have been completed during lessons are useful for revision – particularly of key words. Year 10 books have now gone home and at Easter their current workbooks can also go home.</p>	<p>Past papers and tests that have been completed are all kept in their folders at school. These will also be able to go home at Easter and are useful for identifying weaknesses and common errors. You can access past papers on the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk</p>

We are offering the following sessions to support your child in preparing for GCSE English:

Focus	Day	Time	Room	Invitation	Staff
Power and Conflict Poetry	Monday	Session 6	B13	Open to all students	Ms. Lacey
English Intervention	Wednesday Thursday & Friday	Session 6 Form	BG1 or B12 B16	Targeted students will receive letters	Mrs. Burke, Mr. Burke Miss. Clark
Reaching a 4	Monday	Lunch	B18	Open to all students	Mr. Bliss
Mock reflection Carousel	Fridays in Spring 1	In Lesson		Language Paper 1 question, all questions	English Department

If there is anything I have missed or you feel you would benefit from some support with anything covered in this letter please do get in touch with me, I am more than happy to help.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

Mrs N Burke
English Curriculum Leader