

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 English Language and Literature GCSEs

I am writing with some important information regarding your child's English studies during their Year 10. Our Year 10 pupils are the third cohort to embark upon the new specifications for their English GCSEs. All pupils now study both English Language and English Literature and we are using the AQA exam board for both. Coursework and controlled assessments are now a thing of the past, so pupils are assessed purely on examinations, which they will take at the end of Year 11. Whilst we are excited about this journey with the pupils, it is clear that the courses are going to be very demanding and require 100% effort and determination to overcome some difficult challenges.

I have attached a copy of the course overview sheet we have given to the pupils, which contains useful information about the details of both English GCSEs. Please encourage your child to read as much as possible at home, as a large part of the course is assessed on the reading of unseen texts.

The Literature course consists of the study of four set texts: An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley, Shakespeare's Macbeth, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and an anthology of poetry. Both of the Literature exams are closed book, meaning that pupils do not have access to the text during the exam.

It is therefore essential that pupils buy their own copies of the texts, which they can annotate to develop a really close understanding and knowledge of key quotes. To make this process easy, the department will provide all pupils with a copy of each set text, which we are able to offer at a discounted price of £10 for all four texts.

Pupils have already received their copies of An Inspector Calls and will be given the other texts when study begins on those units. It is often the case that the texts will be kept safe in school unless pupils need them for homework or revision.

Payment can be made via the 'shop items' on parentmail under 'English Set Texts'. Alternatively, you can return the reply slip below with your child with cash, or a cheque made payable to GTS. We would be grateful if payments could be completed by October half term.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any questions about the new English GCSEs.

Yours faithfully,

Hannah Dodwell (hdodwell@gts.devon.sch.uk) Team Leader of English

Reply Slip

Pupil's Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Parent's signature: _____