

3rd September 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

Success in English A Level

On behalf of the English department, I am writing to welcome your daughter/son to their Advanced Level study of English. English is often referred to as one of the 'facilitating subjects' at A Level, which means that it is well-regarded by university admissions departments and forms part of the entry requirements for a wide variety of degree subjects. As such, it is highly competitive and the transition from GCSE to AS Level is a steep one.

Students must be responsible for their own learning. As a department, we will endeavour to do our best to prepare students for their exams and any coursework. However, success at AS and A2 Level is largely down to the way students commit to their courses.

The following strategies and ideas may be useful for you to discuss with your daughter/son and monitor as they progress in Year 12:

- All homework and coursework deadlines must be met. Using a calendar may help students plan and manage their workload.
- Keeping folders and notes organised is important. Regular checks will be done by department staff.
- Students must copy up all notes and ensure they have any handouts/homework tasks if they miss a lesson.
- Students should re-read their class notes and, where appropriate, summarise them. Getting into the habit of doing this means revision is happening from the start of the course.
- Study periods: students should make their own timetable for how they will use their free periods. Consistent independent study throughout the year is preferable to last minute cramming.
- Feedback will be given verbally and on written work. Students must listen/read carefully and act on that feedback if they are to make progress towards their target grades.
- For English Literature and the combined Language & Literature courses, students must keep on top of all reading tasks set. Texts being studied will not be read in class as they are used to at GCSE. Texts should be read at home to maximise the time which can be spent on discussion and analysis in lessons.

If you wish to source any additional revision or support materials for your daughter/son, we study the following specifications:

English Language: AQA Specification B

English Literature: AQA Specification A Victorian Literature (John Clare poetry, Tess of the D'Urbervilles and A Woman of No Importance.)

English Language & Literature: AQA Specification A (The Kiterunner, A Streetcar Named Desire and All My Sons.)

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Miss C Sarson
Curriculum Leader for English