

14th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

English Literature and Language

Despite the uncertainty caused by the cancellation of the summer GCSE examinations, I am writing to you to hopefully offer you and your son/daughter some clarity in English Language and Literature over the coming few months.

As you may be aware, students will soon begin their spoken language examinations as part of the course. In normal times, students would write a presentation about a controversial topic of interest to them, rehearse their presentation and then present to their teacher and peers in a classroom. Although we cannot do this in person, we are still planning to offer students the opportunity to present to their English teacher virtually through a Teams meeting.

Your son/daughter’s English teacher will soon be in touch, if they haven’t been already, to confirm a time slot from the week beginning 18th January. The meetings will be arranged between 3.30 p.m. and 4.15 p.m. Monday – Thursday (during our usual ‘period 6’ hours).

Students have been asked to prepare a spoken presentation either about a topic provided to them by their teacher, or a topic of their choice for between 1-5 minutes in length. Their teacher will then ask them at least one question about their topic (such as “why did you choose this topic?”). Teachers will use the existing AQA spoken language criteria to make a judgement about students’ performance and they will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction. This information will then be passed to AQA when they request it later this year.

When students present, they will be asked to switch their microphone and camera on (which follows AQA guidance) but students can decide not to switch their camera on if they choose. You may also be in the meeting if you wish. We would also request that students have a quiet space to present. You son/daughter may also use cue cards or notes, but they should avoid simply reading a speech out.

For your information, I am also including an overview of Language and Literature lessons between next Monday and the May half term. Until students return to school, we will deliver these lessons through Teams. Students will complete full exam practice at the end of each unit in both Literature and Language; this may be used as evidence towards the awarding of their GCSE grades.

	GCSE Language	GCSE Literature	Spoken Language Examinations
January – March	Language Paper 1 Section A	Macbeth	Teachers will arrange a time with you directly through Teams.
February – March	Language Paper 1 Section B & SpaG Skills	Unseen Poetry	Teachers will arrange a time with you directly through Teams.
March – April	Language Paper 2 Section A	An Inspector Calls	
April – May	Language Paper 2 Section B	A Christmas Carol	

Yours sincerely



Mr R Osborne

Director of Communications

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