

April



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope that the second-wave of mock exams were not too stressful for your son/daughter and they are now in a position to identify gaps in their independent revision. The real exams are so close now and it is essential that students do not lose sight of their ambitions.

We are here to provide support for them, and for you. May we remind the students that **Thursdays** are the revision day for English; after Easter, revision sessions increase and, unless otherwise stated, students are welcome to attend any that are offered, even those led for another class. Students need to be self-motivated to ensure they attend the ones that will help support their own learning and progress.

Attached is April's revision material to complete, which will be the final email from us. There is a lot of material here, including exam papers, so please ensure that your child has spoken to their class teacher; they must ask which specific areas need their concentration. We do not expect them to complete every task! On the next page are some effective strategies for approaching the material – please use these to help guide your son/daughter in the last weeks before the exams.

Please contact the school if you need us.

Ms S Meredith

(Acting Head of English)

Handling the Exam Papers

English Language Papers – try to write at least one full answer per paper.

1. Print them off, if you are able to.
2. Read through the ENTIRE papers and look through the ANSWER BOOKLETS to see how much space they give you – this is a good guide to how much you're expected to write for each question. However, bear in mind that the writing sections provide lots of space for planning as well as the final piece.
3. Target the questions that you found hard in the mock exams or got a low mark in.
4. Start by using the revision guide provided by your English teacher and the sentence starters for each question; then try re-doing the question on your own without that help.
5. Once you feel more confident with the requirements of the question, use the revision guide to memorise the timings – timing is essential for these exam papers. When you practice the question again, give yourself for the correct amount of time and stick to it!

English Literature Papers – try to write at least **one full** essay.

1. Print them off, if you are able to.
2. Read through the ENTIRE paper to appreciate exactly how many pages there are. Not all of the pages are for you. You should ONLY look for the novel, plays and poetry that you recognise. However, with the UNSEEN poetry, you will obviously not recognise it at all.

PAPER 1

3. For Macbeth/Much Ado – READ the question and annotate the EXTRACT, find where the extract is from using your own copy.
 - a) Write 50 words to show what has happened before and after.
 - b) Write 50 words to show the mood of the characters, the role.
 - c) Write 50 words to explain what Shakespeare uses the characters/ideas for.
 - d) Make a list of useful quotes from the whole text or paraphrases.
 - e) PLAN an answer.

Write either the FIRST page of the essay or the WHOLE essay. Don't forget to use the extract AND the whole play.

4. For Dickens – READ the question and annotate the EXTRACT, find where the extract is from using your own copy.
 - f) Write 50 words to show what has happened before and after.
 - g) Write 50 words to show the mood of the characters/ideas/theme.
 - h) Write 50 words to explain what Dickens uses the characters/ideas for.

- i) Make a list of useful quotes from the whole text or paraphrases.
- j) PLAN an answer.

Write either the FIRST page of the essay or the WHOLE essay. Don't forget to use the extract AND the whole novel.

PAPER 2

5. Now, for An Inspector Calls –

- a) READ the two questions (you have a choice here). Make notes on BOTH.
- b) Gather some quotes which would be useful for BOTH.
- c) Plan an answer to BOTH.
- d) Answer one of the questions one week of Easter, and the next, answer another.
- e) You should complete a TIMED essay. Time yourself for 45 minutes.

6. Now for the poetry.

Make sure that you know ALL of the poems. PAIR them up and make notes on both using the headings below. Make notes on how the themes below are evident in the poetry.

WAR, BATTLE, SADNESS, POWER, SOLDIERS, DEATH, MEMORIES, LIFE EXPERIENCES.

Look at the exam paper. PLAN an answer using the question. ANNOTATE the poem and the key word in the question. Select your second poem and learn some quotes, trying not to look in your anthology. WRITE part or the WHOLE of the essay.

7. Finally, to really show understanding. Look carefully at ALL of the exam questions, and INVENT your own QUESTIONS. To answer them, team up with a partner and BRAINSTORM ideas.