

# 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 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 – there is always something going on at lunchtime and after-school.

After Easter, revision sessions will increase and unless otherwise stated, students are welcome to attend any that are offered, even those led for another class. Attendance thus far has not been encouraging and this is a shame when teacher give their own time for the benefit of students. You might like to push them in the right direction!

Just to let you know: on the morning of each English exam, there will also be an early session to briefly re-visit key information, usually beginning around 8am. Texts will be sent out to parents as a reminder.

Attached is April's revision material to complete. However, please ensure that your child has spoken to their class teacher; they must ask which specific areas need their concentration. Much of the revision material consists of exam papers, and so students will need some guidance. I have attached some instructions which explains some effective strategies for approaching them. These are below.

Please contact the school if you need us.

Ms S Meredith

(Assistant Head of English)

## Handling the Exam Papers

Hopefully, the exam papers attached are unfamiliar to you. They are the newest available. Some strategies are below:

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. Get your parents to time you 45 minutes.

Now for the poetry,

- 6. 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.