

SEPTEMBER

Hello!

We often have conversations with well-intentioned parents who want to help their children as much as possible through this vital year. Many parents, though, don't feel like they know where to find suitable resources or how to help their child to work through the course. Through Year 11, we will be sending home monthly emails with ideas and strategies to help parents support their child as they study for their GCSE subjects. We hope that these monthly e-mails will help in this regard, especially with the GCSE still being so new and unfamiliar.

Students' success in their English GCSE is dependent on being able to remember the English skills required to write formal essays, to analyse texts and to respond to questions based on language, theme, character, or setting. In addition, there is much knowledge to be learnt about the texts studied, such as historical and societal influences on the writer.

You'll be receiving monthly activities to try which reflect these requirements. Students will be so much more likely to remember what they have revised if it is broken up into a little bit each day, rather than cramming it all into the final weeks. Each class will have one lesson per fortnight which is allocated specifically to revision in school – but it is up to students to be supporting and building on this at home with independent revision.

Continuing to read regularly is an essential part of English revision. We recommend that students read for at least 20 minutes each evening and read texts which interest them. All texts chosen should have a good level of Standard English. As the year progresses, pieces should increase in difficulty and challenge. A good mix of non-fiction and fiction, modern and pre-1900 texts is expected: novels, speeches, newspapers, news websites, journals, textbooks, short stories and blogs are some suggestions.

Hopefully, the emails are useful; they will also contain information for you such as upcoming dates, new GCSE information, deadlines, etc. if you have any feedback or ideas that you'd like to be included in the future please let us know.

Ms Meredith

(Assistant Head of English)