

4th December 2020

Dear parents and carers

Year 11 English Update

Year 11 students completed mock exams in Paper 1 English Language, 'Macbeth', or 'Romeo and Juliet' (Literature Paper 1, Section A) and either 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde', or 'A Christmas Carol' – this paper is usually assessed in the summer term of year 10 (Literature Paper 2, Section A). In the February mocks we will assess Paper 2 English Language and 'An Inspector Calls', or 'Blood Brothers' (Literature Paper 1, Section B).

Below I have highlighted the main feedback points that have been given in lessons:

- Most students are where we would expect them to be at this stage of the course.
- Many students demonstrated sound knowledge of their literature texts and this must be continuously reinforced – our brains are great at forgetting so regular revision across the range of skills is critical. Please see the listed resources for this, in addition to each student's notes from lessons. Generally, students performed better in the Shakespeare section of the Literature paper. As students have studied this most recently, we would expect this. Students will be recapping their 19th century text in class next term, but should focus their revision around the text they are least confident with.
- Some students ran into timing issues and did not manage to get through the whole range of questions. Timed practice is something that we focus on increasingly and teaching the management of timings in exams will be seen in the post exam feedback sheets.
- The main requirements of the questions were missed in some cases. Each question has a particular skill or demand that is assessed and students miss marks and waste effort if they do not know what this is. We will be constantly recapping the mark schemes in class; key points to help revise this are also contained in the sheets we have shared via Parentmail.
- Most questions rely on the use of analytical WHY paragraphs. We are constantly practising these in lessons so students should feel confident that they will make up any ground lost during lockdown.
- Most students will have achieved a grade for both Language and Literature that is below their target. This is entirely normal and, as long as revision is continuously practised outside of school – and full effort and concentration are put into lessons, students usually make significant progress up to the next mocks. We can finesse key individual points for progress from there and further significant progress is usually made up to the summer exams.

In class, students will be rewriting improved exam answers as part of the RAP (reflect and progress) process. This is critical for improving both performance and confidence.

Revision Resources in English

- www.senecalearning.com
- www.sparknotes.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize (Edexcel English)
- www.digitaltheatreplus.com (username: saxmundhamstudent@seckfordeducation.org.uk password: dt123)

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