



Dear Parents and Carers

### Re: KS3 English update

Thank you for your ongoing support during the autumn term. We really look forward to continuing our learning journey and will be introducing students to a range of non-fiction texts and novels, whilst helping them to improve their writing skills this term. I wanted to write to inform you of the units we will be covering, so you can continue to support your child with their learning.

#### Year 7

Year 7 students will develop their writing and will be learning the skills required for transactional writing. They will learn the skills of arguing and persuading, writing in a variety of forms and developing their speaking and listening. They will be doing lots of work on current issues, including animal welfare and the environment, so please encourage your child to regularly read the news. They will also develop these skills when studying a novel. They will study *Abomination, Holes, War Horse* or *Private Peaceful*; novels which will enable students to develop a personal response. We will do lots of recap work on spelling, grammar and punctuation, in order to embed these key skills. The texts will enable us to explore our core values and develop cultural capital, as students address and form opinions on key issues in our society.

#### Year 8

Year 8 students will develop their writing skills as they learn the skills required for transactional writing. They will read the play *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell and be encouraged to form opinions on the key themes of social status, poverty, family and education. The play explores some challenging themes and includes strong language, which we will deal with sensitively. Students will develop their spelling, grammar and punctuation with a focus on vocabulary. Students will also develop their speaking and listening skills through debates and discussions.

#### Year 9

Year 9 students will study Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. This will enable students to develop their analytical writing skills as they explore language, form and structure in depth. The approach to study in this unit will support students' preparation for their GCSEs.

It will be expected that all students in year 7, 8 and 9 have a reading book with them. Books can be loaned from the school library; our learning resources coordinator is highly knowledgeable and can support your child with choosing a book if they need direction. There are also a number of reading projects, including *Reading Rampage*, which students can access through the library or their English teacher.

There is a termly homework set for all students and reminders are given weekly using Show My Homework. It is important that your child attempts all homework; however, please do contact their class teacher if they are finding independent learning difficult. There is also a homework club in the library where students can access IT and support.

Thank you for your continued support.

C Tucker

Director of Learning for English

