



September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## Re: KS3 English at Brockington College

Thank you for your support in contributing to a lovely start to the academic year. Students have settled well into their English lessons and we are looking forward to the year ahead.

I just wanted to write to inform you of the changes we have made to the Key Stage 3 English curriculum so you can support your child with their learning.

### Year 7

Year 7 start the year studying the gothic genre. They will read lots of short stories and poetry and investigate the features of gothic literature, using this knowledge to develop their narrative writing skills. They will also read the novel 'Coraline' by Neil Gaiman, which links with the gothic theme and explores our core values. We will do lots of recap work on spelling, grammar and punctuation, in order to embed these key skills.

### Year 8

Year 8 will read the novella 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck. It is a well-loved text and students will enjoy reading and analysing language, whilst developing their own descriptive and narrative writing. The novella shares some challenging themes, which we will deal with sensitively. The text will enable us to explore our core values, as we address the key issues of prejudice and how we can develop compassion and empathy. Students will develop their spelling, grammar and punctuation with a focus on vocabulary.

### Year 9

Year 9 students will read Arthur Conan-Doyle's 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' or 'Woman in Black'. Linking to the earlier gothic study, both texts are challenging but will enable students to continue to develop their narrative writing skills, as they explore character and narrative structure in more depth. We will continue to develop spelling, grammar and punctuation and teach more advanced punctuation in preparation for their GCSEs.

It will be expected that all students in year 7, 8 and 9 have a reading book with them at all times. The library will be open for them to loan a book if they need one. Our librarian is highly knowledgeable and can support your child with choosing a book if they need direction. Year 7 and 8 students have a library lesson once per fortnight where they can choose books and focus explicitly on developing their reading skills.

We will be setting homework weekly using Show My Homework. It is important that your child attempts all homework; however, do contact their class teacher if they are finding independent learning difficult. There is a homework club in the library where students can access IT and support if they need to.

We are so looking forward to delivering our Key Stage 3 curriculum and are excited about our learning journey in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.

C Rowntree  
Director of Learning for English

