



September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: KS4 English at Brockington College

Thank you for your support in contributing to a lovely start to the autumn term. I just wanted to write to inform you of the learning journey for our Key Stage 4 students in English, so you can support your child with their learning. In English, students complete two GCSEs: English Language and English Literature.

Year 10

Year 10 will begin the year studying the GCSE English Literature course with the study of 'An Inspector Calls'. This play centres on an investigation into a woman's death and explores themes of poverty, morality and social responsibility. Students will develop their ability to understand and analyse the structure, characters and themes in the text.

The GCSE English Language course is delivered concurrently, with students improving their reading and writing skills throughout. At present, there is a requirement that students achieve at least a grade 4 in their English Language GCSE, otherwise they will need to continue studying this subject in any post 16 course. They will focus on Component One, which assesses students' ability in reading and writing fiction.

Following this, students will read 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. Again, analytical skills will be a key focus, and we will develop students' contextual knowledge of Victorian Britain, as there is a greater focus on understanding Dickens' social, historical and biographical context.

Throughout the course, we will give students opportunities to read a range of texts and to develop their writing skills. There will also be opportunities for speaking and listening activities, in order to develop students' communication skills, in preparation for the spoken language assessment at the end of year 10.

Year 11

Year 11 students will begin the year by studying Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' for the English Literature GCSE. They will recap and develop their essay writing skills and develop their ability to analyse and interpret language. Prior to their mock exams, we will have the opportunity to revise Language Component Two skills, focusing on reading and writing non-fiction. Students will be able to watch a performance of Macbeth in class, but should a live performance be available, we will endeavour to organise a theatre trip.

For English Literature, the mock exam will test students' knowledge of the poetry anthology and Macbeth, and for English Language they will be examined on Component Two. Students will receive support from their teachers on how to revise and will be provided with revision materials. Drop-in revision sessions will be available, details of which can be found on the website.

After the mock exams and the completion of Macbeth, students will continue to improve their skills and knowledge. There will be lots of opportunities for students to attend after school interventions and access help.

There is an expectation that students read independently at home. Research suggests that students who read for pleasure increase their grades across all subjects. Students



can access the library and our librarian is highly knowledgeable and can guide students if they need some direction.

Students will be set regular homework which they should complete. If your child has any difficulties working independently, please don't hesitate to contact their English teacher. A homework club is available in the library, where they can access additional support.

We are really pleased to be back and are looking forward to the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.

C Rowntree
Director of Learning for English

