



Faculty of English Film and Media

ENGLISH CHRISTMAS BULLETIN



Merry Christmas from the team -

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Miss Vicky Ross Subject Leader for A Level Language and Literature; Creative Writing A Level

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English Teacher

Mr Richard Morris
English and Drama teacher

Mrs Collette Harding
Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Julie Boddy

How the English GCSEs break down...

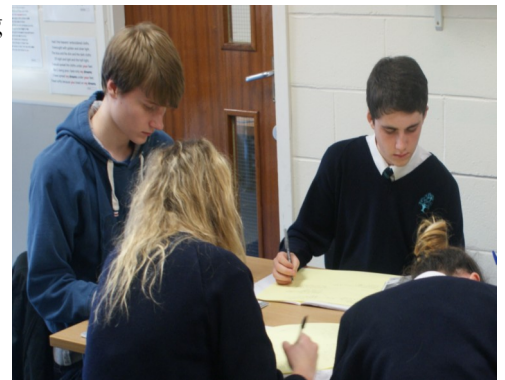
Year 10 (Internal CA)
U1 Lang: English Today 20%
U3 Lang: Spoken Word 20%
U3 Lit: Drama 25%

Year 11 (External exam)
U1 Lit: Prose 50%
U2 Lit: Poetry 25%
U2 Lang: Writer's Voice 60%

Year 10 English students are now well into their second English Language piece of work (Unit 3: Spoken Language) with some students coming up to their first of two controlled assessments for this unit. Controlled assessments are 2 hours long for each piece and usually run over two English lessons, in the classroom. Students are under exam conditions and there should be silence in the room to allow everybody a fair chance of producing their best work. For students who are allowed extra time in the exam, additional time is also allowed for CAs.

As is common practice, we are constantly looking at our class groupings, and by the end of January some students will be moved into a different class to begin studies for the Literature GCSE. This is based on target grades, achievement in the Controlled Assessments and interim progress checks. Literature in year 10 is split into 2 sections—Shakespeare and Contemporary Drama. As a starting point for study, students will have the opportunity to carry out independent research, with guidance from their teacher, looking at the life and times of Shakespeare and the opportunity to produce some project work and/or creative writing.

Year 10 and 11 students have been benefitting from our post 16 mentoring initiative. In most of our classes we are lucky to have volunteer mentors who give up their study time to work with English students. This could be small group work focusing on a specific area or a one to one session where the students can discuss and work on a task together. This mentoring partnership builds confidence as well as gives the student valuable opportunity to catch up after absences or just receive support from someone who has recently gone through the same GCSEs. Our mentors are currently taking AS or A2 levels in one of our subjects and have enjoyed giving current GCSE students the benefit of their experiences. Mentors feed back to the class teacher, discussing progress and any further areas of development which the teacher can then incorporate into a personalised learning plan. Students of all abilities can benefit from this initiative. **Homework for year 11 will increasingly** become focused on preparation for exams. It is so important that students are supported to complete practise essays at



home and look at past papers for both their Language and Literature exams. Whilst teaching in the classroom moves onto prose texts, students must be revisiting their poetry work: reminding themselves of the poems, looking over their annotations and further developing their writing skills. After the Christmas holidays there will be a list of practise questions on the revision page of the English section on the College website. Teachers will always mark extra work produced and give feedback.



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