



Faculty of English Film and Media

**Mrs Amanda Bellamy**  
*Head of Faculty; Assistant Principal for Literacy*  
 abellamy@grobyscoll.com

**Mr Matt Male** *Second in Faculty; Subject leader for Media*

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

**Miss Fran Nolan** *Subject Leader for A Level Literature*

**Miss Rebecca Ivin**  
*SMSC link*

**Miss Emma Fullbrook**  
*High Ability Link*

**Mr Roger Cairns**  
*English Teacher*

**Mr Richard Morris**  
*English and Drama teacher*

**Mrs Collette Harding**  
*Learning Support Assistant*

**Mrs Julie Boddy**  
*Faculty Clerical Assistant*

**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%

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# SPRING BULLETIN



**Year 10 English students** are currently working on their first Literature unit. Over the next few weeks controlled assessments will be sat for 'Contemporary Drama' and 'Shakespeare' - the combined marks for these essays represent 25% of the final Literature GCSE. Post 16 mentors have been lending their experience to students and we have also been able to offer a trip to the RSC and Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford Upon Avon. Some classes will sit one of the controlled assessments in the mock exam week, in the final week of term - a good opportunity to produce an extended piece of writing over the two hour period, uninterrupted by a break in the lessons. After this unit students will begin preparatory work in poetry, which will take us through to the end of the summer term.

**With less than 6 teaching weeks left** until the English exams begin, year 11 students are well under way with their final unit for English Language - 'The Writer's Voice'. The exam paper has two sections: the first requires a response to an extract from the novel studied in class, the second is a task concerned with students' understanding of audience and purpose. Students have the classroom displays to remind them of the poems and novels, with key terms they need to use in exams to secure the best grades possible. Students have also been set practice essays for all of the exams. More practice questions can be found on the college website as well as in past papers which the students have in their folders. Completing essays and receiving personalised and detailed feedback from teachers who know their students' strengths and areas for development, is the very best quality revision the students can experience. In the immediate run up to exams students need to know if their written responses are of a high enough quality for them to achieve at least their target grades—and if they are not, exactly what **they** need to do to improve. This one to one support and advice is a tried and tested revision method which builds confidence and focuses students on their individual areas for improvement. Teachers will mark any extra essays that are written and will continue to arrange meetings and tutorials with individuals or small groups right up to the exams.

