



Faculty of English Film and Media

### The Team

Mrs Amanda Bellamy  
Head of Faculty

Mr Matt Male  
Second in Faculty; Subject leader for Media

Mrs Sam Auger  
Literacy Co-Ordinator

Miss Vicky Ross  
Subject Leader for A Level Language and Literature

Miss Fran Nolan  
Subject Leader for A Level Literature

Miss Rebecca Ivin  
Creative Writing Club

Miss Emma Fullbrook  
Gifted and Talented Link

Mrs Collette Harding  
Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Louisa Howard  
Faculty Clerical Assistant

### How the English GCSEs breakdown...

#### 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 40%

#### Ongoing over 2 years

U3 Lang: Speaking and Listening 20%



April 2013

# English Spring Bulletin

Keeping year 11 parents and carers up to date with their children's studies

**Year 11 students** are now gearing up for their English exams which begin at the end of next month. The important dates are: **Monday 20 May** for the Literature resit (*Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Of Mice and Men*); **Thursday 23 May** for the Poetry paper; **Tuesday 4 June** for 'The Writer's Voice' paper (*Heroes* and the Writing question); **Tuesday 4 June** for students taking the single English 'Writer's Craft' GCSE (*Of Mice and Men*, *Macbeth* and *Writing*). In class we are currently teaching 'Heroes' and the 'writing' question whilst essay practice for

*Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.*

William Butler Yeats



the poetry is being set for homework and will be revisited for a short time in May.

Students have a **mock exam** for 'The Writer's Voice' at 9am on Thursday 25 April to prepare them for the exam which follows.

Students have example exam papers for all of their English exams and their teachers have given them extra sets of practice questions. Questions are also available on the English page of the College website. Homework should be completed and handed in on time for students to benefit from individual feedback and advice for improvement.

In addition to this, the Faculty have written a poem-by-poem revision guide which is available in college on the student shared area. This is particularly important if students have been absent.

### Revision

'Revision' is a word which often elicits an audible groan when mentioned—but no student can walk into an exam and produce their best piece of work without it. The key to successful revision is being organised. Students should be thinking 'What do I need to do and when am I going to do it?' There is a compulsion to revise the areas that students have

enjoyed learning and push to one side the areas which have been more difficult. There is always an English teacher to talk to, whether it is their own teacher or not. We operate an 'open door' policy and if students are struggling with any aspect of their learning, or revision organisation, they must speak up for help. Often the solution is very straight forward. Targeted revision classes begin after school later this month.

### Reaching for the higher grades?

All of our students are encouraged, and actively taught, how to improve their work to achieve the highest grades they can. The starting point is having an in-depth knowledge of the texts being studied. All students should be re-reading the poetry and novels as well as looking over completed and marked work done in class and for homework. For

the higher grades the secret is in the detail of the responses they are making. We tell students not to move quickly onto the next point before they are sure they have said everything relevant about the point they are on—and incorporated discussion of language or literary techniques (depending on their question). Key words include 'furthermore' which

acts as a reminder to prolong discussion; or 'alternatively' which reminds students to consider an alternative point of view, or 'reading'. Spending a small amount of time thinking of higher order vocabulary and more sophisticated expression is also very worthwhile. *Reaching for A\* in the poetry paper* classes begin on Thurs 25 April at 3.15.