



25 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 GCSE English examinations information

You may be aware from recent news reports that the structure of the GCSEs for Summer 2021 have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the arrangements for GCSE English Language and Literature for this summer's examinations. The revised structure for summer 2021 has been approved by Ofqual and we can now advise you of the steps we are taking to deliver this to your children.

Year 11 students have returned to school this month to revise and refresh their knowledge of *Romeo and Juliet*. We began with this unit as Ofqual determined over the summer that the Shakespeare text would be compulsory across all exam boards.

AQA, our examination board for English Language and Literature, have now advised us that the June 2021 Literature examinations will be structured as follows:

Paper 1: (1 hour and 45 minutes) students will sit **two** of the following three units:

- Poetry comparison cluster (your children studied the 'Power and Conflict' cluster)
- Nineteenth century text (either *A Christmas Carol* or *Jekyll and Hyde*)
- Twentieth century text (either *Animal Farm* or *An Inspector Calls*)

Paper 2: (1 hour and 45 minutes) both these units are **compulsory**:

- Shakespeare (*Romeo and Juliet*)
- Unseen Poetry analysis and comparison.

There are no changes to the content and structure of the English Language examination papers.

As an English department, the decision has been taken that, as a cohort, students will take Paper 1B and 1C (the nineteenth and twentieth century texts). The decision to remove the cluster poetry from our teaching (and as an exam option for pupils at Etonbury Academy) is based on careful consideration of what will enable pupils to achieve their best possible grade in English Literature this summer. The students are more comfortable with the nineteenth and twentieth century texts than they are with the poetry, and our internal data indicates that these are the texts that will most likely achieve success for your children.

In addition, many of you have already bought copies of the texts for your children, as well as revision guides for both texts and we would want your children to take full advantage of the resources they already have.

This autumn's mock examinations in November will be a paper based on the revised Paper 2 - the compulsory units of *Romeo and Juliet* and Unseen Poetry. The Spring Mock exam will comprise of the nineteenth and twentieth century texts.

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Again, English Language remains unaffected, and students will complete a mock exam in Language Paper 1 after half term and Language Paper 2 in Spring.

Please feel free to contact either myself or your child's English teacher should you require any further clarification.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Wells', written in a cursive style.

Mr Lee Wells
Head of English