



12 March 2025

Dear Families

## GCSE English Literature Set Text – A Christmas Carol

In years 10 and 11, your child will be studying a number of set texts for their English Literature examinations. In preparation for this, after the Easter holidays in year 9, we will be following a unit of work designed to prepare students for studying **A Christmas Carol** at GCSE.

This unit will include reading and some annotating of the text, as well as looking its historical and social context. We intend for this to give students a good understanding of the novel and its main themes, as well as the chance to explore some of the literary methods used by Dickens. We will then revisit the topic in years 10 and 11, when we will concentrate more on how to successfully write about the text in examination conditions.

The English faculty at Sackville is following the AQA syllabus which requires students to have a detailed and thorough understanding of several texts. Students will not receive a copy of these books in the exam and so it is important for them to make the best use of them during their study and revision. With their own copy, students may use highlighter pens, underline and write notes in the margin, all of which prove extremely helpful in aiding understanding and analysis.

As you can appreciate, once a copy has been marked in this way it cannot be used by another student. Consequently, we are asking you to purchase the texts that your child is studying. We are asking you that you purchase a copy of **A Christmas Carol** in time for the start of the summer term on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> April.

A note of the text, the suggested edition and the recommended retail price follows. Texts are available from Amazon or your local bookshop will also be able to order for you. Copy and pasting the ISBN number (see table below) into the site will take you directly to the correct book.

<b>A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens</b>	Scholastic classic edition (blue and white cover)	ISBN: 978-1-407143-64-4	RRP: £5.99
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Texts can often be found for less than the recommended retail price. Second hand copies are also widely available and perfectly acceptable. We keep a small stock of second hand, previously annotated copies at school on a first-come-first-served basis in case of need.

We will provide full funding for our eligible Pupil Premium students, from the available grant for this item. If you have any questions please get in contact with your community team.

We thank you for your support with your child's GCSE. If you have any further queries, please contact either myself at [jmaunder@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:jmaunder@sackvilleschool.org.uk) or the Curriculum Team Leader of English, Mrs J Grimes at [jgrimes@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:jgrimes@sackvilleschool.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mr J Maunder  
Leader of Year 9 English

