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Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE English: Speaking and Listening 2021

We are writing to you concerning the GCSE spoken language endorsement that your child is due to complete this half term in year 11. Candidates must undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic of their choice. As a guide, the duration of the whole assessment should be no more than five minutes. This endorsement is then reported as a separate grade (pass, merit, distinction or not classified) and will not contribute to the result of the GCSE English language qualification. However, it remains a crucial aspect of the English language GCSE course and the final grade will appear on the GCSE result transcript, alongside their language and literature grades, that they receive in August 2022. The spoken language endorsement provides an excellent opportunity for students to practise their speaking and listening skills in front of their peers and teachers. Students will also learn and understand how these skills will benefit them in other areas of life, such as interviews for education or employment and future presentations they may undertake.

Presentations are teacher assessed in class and can happen at different dates and times dependent on the teacher and when their lessons are. Teachers will use a 'student record form' from AQA to record where students have met the criteria and grade them accordingly. All presentations will aim to be completed by October half term. This will allow students to focus on their mocks during and after half term.

Key requirements as stated by AQA:

- Presentations must be formal but may take a wide variety of forms, including talks, debates, speeches and dialogues.
- Candidates must identify the subject for their presentations in advance and agree it with their teacher.
- Presentations must be planned and organised. Candidates should be advised that lack of preparation is likely to prevent access to the criteria for the higher grades.
- Candidates may use pre-prepared notes, PowerPoint etc. to assist them during their presentations but this is not a requirement.
- As part of, or following, the presentation, candidates must listen to and respond appropriately to questions and feedback.
- Where the audience is the teacher only, the presentation and dialogue must be designed in such a way that it could have a potentially wider audience than just one person (e.g. it replicates a television interview).



To support your child you should:

- Listen to presentations prior to the assessment and provide constructive feedback.
- Offer any advice for presenting, for example: having brief but helpful notes as a prompt, having water with them, making eye contact with the audience etc.

We thank you for your support with your child's GCSE English Language. If you have any further queries, please contact either ourselves (zangella@sackvilleschool.org.uk or chalford@sackvilleschool.org.uk) or the English Curriculum Team Leader, Jennie Grimes (jgrimes@sackvilleschool.org.uk).

Yours sincerely
Mr Z Angella and Miss C Halford
Leaders of KS4 English