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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 11 - GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language

We are writing to you concerning changes to the AQA GCSE English language and literature examination course that your child is currently following and in particular about a change to the GCSE English literature examination which has recently been confirmed by Ofqual and the DfE.

As discussed in the year 11 parents' information evening our students are ordinarily expected to complete five components for literature. Due to the disruption caused over the past two years, it has been decided by Ofqual and the DfE that students will be given the opportunity to drop one of these units and focus on the others. Consequently, as a department, we have decided to drop the 19th century novel (which would have been a *Christmas carol*) from our curriculum.

Our decision has been taken to ensure students are still given the opportunity to study a breadth of topics at GCSE Literature. In addition, students have already studied the modern text, as well as a portion of the anthology poetry units. We feel it is therefore in the students' best interests to miss out the 19th century novel as this will allow them more time to focus on revision and exam skills in preparation for the summer exams.

The timings of the exams will be revised accordingly. The students will still sit two papers for English literature, though these will be split into a Shakespeare and Unseen Poetry paper (1 hour and 45 minutes) and one paper which will include Anthology Poetry and the modern text (either *An Inspector Calls* or *Lord of the Flies*). This will be made up of two fifty minutes sections. The language papers will remain the same.

It is crucial that students are as prepared as possible for their summer exams. To this end, they will respond to questions on all of the topics in their literature exams either in their November mock examinations or those which follow in March. The literature topics for November will be Shakespeare and Anthology Poetry, while in March the focus will be the Modern Text and Unseen Poetry. In the language mock papers, students will sit a full language paper 1 in November and complete language paper 2 in March.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's English GCSEs.

Yours sincerely

Mr Z Angella and Miss C Halford

Leaders of KS4 English

