

Two English GCSEs

✓ GCSE English Language

- ✓ AQA exam board
- ✓ 2 exams (100%)
- ✓ Fiction (P1) and Non-Fiction (P2)
- ✓ Five questions
- ✓ Section A = Reading
- ✓ Section B = Writing

✓ GCSE English Literature

- ✓ AQA exam board
- ✓ 2 exams (100%)
- ✓ Closed book
- ✓ 1 exam on Shakespeare and 19th Century novels
 - ✓ 2 questions
- ✓ 1 exam on modern novels and poetry both seen and unseen

The New Grading System



- Students will now be graded 1-9 with 9 being the highest grade.
- The equivalent of the old grade 'C' is a grade 5.
- Their targets should be stuck in the front of their book if they have done as requested by their class teacher.

What will my child be studying in English this year?

- Macbeth – Literature paper 1
- An Inspector Calls – Literature Paper 2
- 8 poems from the Conflict Poems Anthology
- A Christmas Carol
- Language Paper 1 – Year 9 course content.
- Language Paper 2 – Year 9 course content.

How can I support my child with the literature content for Macbeth, An Inspector Calls and A Christmas Carol?

- ❖ Can your child tell you the story?
- ❖ Can they talk about the character? Test them by asking them to name 5 qualities the character has. Add to that 5 quotes either spoken by the character or about them. Post its are very useful here.
- ❖ Can they tell you the main themes? Ask them to name a theme and then ask them to give you instances where the themes are evident.
- ❖ Over a cup of tea, what can they tell you about the context?
- ❖ Read a paragraph or section together and ask them to talk you through how the writer uses language for effect? What techniques can they identify?
- ❖ Mind map for character / themes.

8 conflict poems

THEY HAVE TO LEARN THEM

- ❖ Take the anthology from them and give them a line from a poem and ask them to identify the poem. What else can they remember about the poem? Which poems could they link that poem to? How?
- ❖ Encourage them to write quotes on post-its.

How can I support my child in reaching their full potential?

- Encourage your son/daughter to read – this will help with their language acquisition. In order to access texts, students need to be able to read and understand 95% of the vocabulary within a text.
- Encourage them to answer 'How' and 'Why' questions about anything – this will help them feel more confident when they have to write detailed responses in the exam, which is pretty much for every bit of it, except q1 on Paper 1 and 2 of the language paper.
- Test them on their technical terminology. (They have a list for each unit)
- Help them to review their work every day after each lesson. Students have 5 lessons of English a week-that is a lot to remember!