



3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11 English

We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer and that you have had the opportunity to reconnect with both family and friends.

With the start of Year 11 fast approaching we wanted to provide you with some information for how English will look over the year ahead.

As you may know, in English students are placed into sets that best suit their current attainment and learning needs: higher sets are faster paced and more challenging, whereas lower sets offer a slower pace with extra support and generally smaller class sizes. The set that a student is placed in can change depending on their need. This is reviewed on a term-by-term basis, ensuring that students are provided with the appropriate level of support and/or challenge that they require throughout the school year. Your child may have moved to a different set from the one they were in at the end of the last academic year. We have carefully considered the data we collected during Year 10, the assessments that were undertaken during the summer term and individual needs to reset students accordingly. However, as already mentioned, students have the potential to move up as well as down depending on individual effort, attainment and learning need.

Year 11 will focus mainly on revision of literature texts and language skills. For the Literature component of the exam students will revise *Macbeth*, *An Inspector Calls*, the *Power and Conflict* poetry anthology and poetry more generally. There will also be a focus on essay-writing skills to help students develop their extended critical writing. For Language, students will be looking at a wide range of fiction and non-fiction extracts, revising the skills needed to understand, analyse, and comment on the effect of language and structure in these examples. Additionally, writing is an extremely important part of the Language GCSE and students will need to develop their ability to write creatively and to present viewpoints. We recommend that you encourage your child to read as much as possible to help improve comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, and grammar - all of which are assessed at GCSE level.

We will be studying one new text: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Students will read the novel as homework during the first half-term (it is a relatively short novel) and then study it in more detail later in the year. Students will be provided with a link to read this online so it will not be necessary to purchase the book.

The Matthew Arnold School



We are looking forward to working with the new Year 11s and if you (or they) have any questions, please feel free to contact the English Department.

Yours sincerely

Miss Genet
Head of English

Miss Hodgson
Teacher of English

Miss Parker
Teacher of English

Mrs Rose
Head of Year 11/Teacher of English