03 May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you that we have taken the decision to commence teaching the GCSE English Language and Literature courses in the Pentecost term of Year 9. In light of the new GCSE courses which have been running for the last three years, we feel that maximising the amount of time available to teach the course would be beneficial to students due to the additional content and skills required.

Students will continue to be assessed using the Key Stage 3 flight paths; however, they will be undertaking a Spoken Language unit in preparation for a GCSE Spoken Language assessment; they will also be studying Romeo and Juliet for GCSE English Literature, the intention being to have read and studied the story/plot and characters this year, revisiting the text in Years 10 and 11 with more focus on exam skills and techniques.

For students to truly benefit from this, it is imperative that they now adopt the correct mind-set and approach; that is, that they are starting a GCSE course and need to adopt the attitude of GCSE students. To that end, I would like to encourage all students to purchase their own copy of Romeo and Juliet so that as we study the text in lessons, students can annotate and highlight relevant sections; their own copies will also facilitate homework and independent study. Any student without their own text will, of course, be given a copy by school to use in lessons.

If you would like to purchase a copy, you can do so on Parent Pay for a cost of **£4.95**. Texts will then be distributed to students in lesson time. Students will be starting the study of this play in the second half of this term.

There are further texts for the GCSE Literature course which we will make available to purchase in Year 10, along with appropriate revision guides.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Huws

Subject Leader of English