Friday 8th October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to update you on the situation with GCSE English Literature, following the outcome of the OFQUAL consultation last Thursday. They decided that:

* GCSE English Literature will be examined with modified entries
* All students will be examined on Shakespeare and Unseen Poetry
* Students must then be entered for two of the three texts – An Inspector Calls, Anthology Poetry, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

We have carefully considered our response to this information, taking into account the nature of each text, historic performance in both our school and nationally, and the demands of each question in the exam. As a result, we intend to enter students for **An Inspector Calls** and **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.** Students will not, therefore, be examined on the Anthology Poetry.

I am **aware** that students were told the mock exam in November would be on the Anthology Poetry. This was based on the information we had available to use at the time the exams were planned. Given OFQUAL’s very late decision about the examinations, we have no alternative but to change the focus of the exam now to reflect the decision taken; therefore, students will be examined on An Inspector Calls and Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde for their mock exam in November. They still have a month to prepare and I am mindful that, given this was the focus of the exam in June of Year 10, students will have done recent revision on this text already.

Students have sat through a presentation this week to talk them through this decision. We have published an updated page of exam advice for students to replace what was in the original exam booklet. I would be grateful for your support, therefore, in encouraging students to look carefully at their revision timetables and consider where they need to make changes in light of the different focus, perhaps to re-read the text of Jekyll and Hyde and to check they have revision materials to help them. We will ensure Teams is updated with materials to support them also.

I am sure you can appreciate that, in this instance, we have been limited by the timescales of OFQUAL and thank you in advance for your support in this.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Huws
Subject Leader of English