

02/10/2018

Dear Parent / Carer

**Re: Year 11 English Revision**

I am writing to give you information about your son or daughter’s English Language and Literature GCSE course and set out the key events and timelines before Christmas.

As we shared with many of you at the recent Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening, revising throughout Year 11 is important, particularly in English. This is because there are many characters, themes and quotations to remember for students from a number of set texts. Good quality, consistent revision will mean students use their long-term memory rather than relying on cramming or a last minute approach which is rarely helpful.

**Set Texts**

To help students with prioritise their own revision, we have undertaken an activity in class this week to rank the following Literature set texts: *A Christmas Carol*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Power and Conflict Poetry*. The order that your son or daughter feels that they need to revise these texts in is shown below:

Priority for revision	Name of Text:
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____

The following activities are helpful ways to revise English Literature set texts:

Revision Activity	Notes...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-read the texts</li> </ul>	Students need to know plot, character and quotations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watching a film or DVD</li> </ul>	This helps to re-inforce knowledge of the text. Lots of versions are available online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using revision guides</li> </ul>	Students have been given a revision guide for each text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the internet</li> </ul>	Useful sites include: <a href="https://www.sparknotes.com">https://www.sparknotes.com</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zckw2hv">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zckw2hv</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff/">https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff/</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making cue card / mind maps</li> </ul>	These help organise the information in students’ minds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quizzing / testing</li> </ul>	Doing short recall quizzes helps memory retrieval
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completing exam questions</li> </ul>	This prepares students directly for what they will face in the examinations themselves.

In lessons this week, teachers have carried out an audit of what materials students need in order to undertake a successful revision programme. These will be sent home with them this week.

**Oak Academy**

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Please check that your son or daughter has a safe place at home to keep these materials (e.g. copies of the books / revision guides) so that they can use them as part of their revision.

### **Year 11 Mocks**

The first round Year 11 Mock Exams will be sat by students before Christmas. These are about eight weeks away. In order for students to do well in them, it is important that they begin revising now. This is not meant to be onerous or overly demanding. It is simply meant to help them space out the revision so that it does not need to be crammed at the last minute.

Half an hour to forty five minutes every two or three days at the moment would be a good start, increasing accordingly as we near the exams.

Please note, that this is in addition to home learning being set at the moment and will require you to discuss with your son or daughter the following:

- Where they find revision most effective at home
- When they revise best
- What rewards they might gain for working independently!
- What support and help they need from you to achieve well in their GCSE exams

### **Revision Sessions**

In order to help students with their mocks, particularly in core subjects, we are putting on extra support sessions for English and Maths. These will be after school on Thursdays or Fridays over the next few weeks. Students have been given details in their progress assembly with Mrs Richley and Miss Bower.

### **Remote Access to School Network**

As part of our website re-launch, we have improved access to our network for students. They are able to log onto the "Student Shared Area" through the website and access exam papers and revision materials. They can do this by visiting: <https://remote.leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk/>

### **Key Dates**

The key dates for the year can be found at our website at the link below:

<https://www.oak-academy.co.uk/academy-information/document-zone/information-for-parents/>

This document has details of all of the Mocks, PPEs and Public Exams, as well as details of the Open Evenings for local Sixth Forms and Colleges. Please do check it carefully with your son or daughter.

### **Finally...**

Thank you in advance for your support as we go through Year 11. If there is anything in this letter that you would like to discuss with me further, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully

Miss L Brunt  
Curriculum Leader for English

Mr J Cornish  
Vice Principal