

7th September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Purchase of Texts for English Literature GCSE

You may be aware that the English Language and English Literature GCSE is changing for students who will begin Year 10 this September.

For English Literature, we will be following the AQA syllabus and students will be studying the following:

Romeo and Juliet – by William Shakespeare (Oxford School Shakespeare)

An Inspector Calls – by J.B. Priestley (Heinemann)

Either:

The Sign of Four by Arthur Conan Doyle (Collins Classic – some of you may have purchased a different version at the end of Year 9 which is **not a problem** at all)

or

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson (Collins Classic).

This prose text choice will be dependent upon the class that your son/daughter is in.

All students will also study a range of poetry, provided in an anthology from AQA.

One important way in which the English Literature qualification is changing, is that it will be based on two **closed book** exams – there is no coursework or controlled assessment on the new specifications. This means that whereas in the past students have had access to the text they have studied in the exam to enable them to refer to it, they will now no longer have that option. Students will still be expected to have a good grasp of the whole texts they will be studying – and the emphasis is very much on *whole texts*. To enable students to handle these challenging texts for an exam, it will be necessary for your son/daughter to have their own copies. They are texts which will require reading and re-reading over the two year course, and making revision notes directly onto the pages will be extremely useful. Students will certainly need to re-read them in the run up to the exams in Year 11.

We strongly recommend that you purchase the same editions as we use in school, as noted above. Amazon will give the best price on these texts, and purchases over £10 will qualify for free delivery. This will also enable you to receive the text much more quickly than the school ordering a more expensive version from the publisher for you.

If you would like copies of these texts, but financial circumstances make this difficult, there are funds available to help. Equally, if you have difficulty accessing Amazon for any reason, please ask your child to speak to their English teacher or to me. Further information will follow at the Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 9th September.

Yours faithfully,



H. Smy
Head of English, Media and Film