

Dear Parent /Guardian

This term we will be focusing on English Language, in preparation for mock exams in March, when your daughter will be sitting English Language Paper One and Paper Two.

These exams are skills based and there are two key areas where you can support your daughter.

1. Improve Reading Skills

Across the two exams there will be three extracts to read, fiction and non-fiction. The best preparation for this is to encourage your daughter to read regularly.

Fiction

- The texts for their literature exams
- Reading for pleasure. Reading is also a relaxing activity which might help to combat stress and keep them away from their phones!
- Reading recommendations available on school website (Literacy and Numeracy)

Non-fiction

- Quality newspaper articles. (Sunday Papers have additional magazines)
- Guardian online (free version)
- BBC news website

2. Developing Vocabulary

In the two writing tasks (which are worth half of the marks for the whole exam) vocabulary is credited in **both** content and technical skills.

- Vocabulary lists can be found at:
<https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/317141>
http://www.geoffbarton.co.uk/files/student-resources/GCSE-A*/GB-Top-level-vocab.pdf
- Learn five words a week from the vocabulary lists
- Make synonym lists – Alternatives for boring adjectives such as nice, good, bad.

Useful websites and other resources



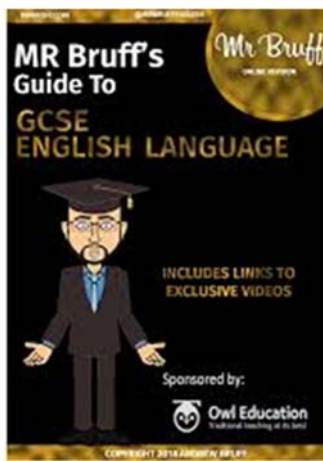
GCSE Pod (free to download – can be accessed from School website)

This a programme that the school is a subscriber of, students can access the podcasts through their phones and revise on the move.



BBC Bitesize Revision (free to download)

This is a free to download app that includes flashcards, mini quizzes and key info.



Mr Bruff

An English teacher who has made revision videos for English Language and Literature. Available on youtube. Podcasts available on itunes

There are also many print guides available; make sure you choose one with is compatible with the AQA exam board.

In class, your daughters will be working on past papers and model answers. As part of the new Feedback Policy, books may not be marked in the traditional way*; we will be using feedback and modelling to help improve their skills. Ask them to explain to you what they are doing – it develops their understanding to explain it aloud.

*(Mock exams will be marked traditionally)

Thank you again for your support

For Information – Dates for Summer Exams

English Literature Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes)

Wednesday 15th May 2019

- Shakespeare (Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet)
- 19th Century Novel (Pride and Prejudice, Jane Eyre, A Christmas Carol)

English Literature Paper 2 (2 hours 15 minutes)

Thursday 23rd May 2019

- An Inspector Calls
- Love and Relationships poetry
- Un-seen poetry

English Language Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes)

Tuesday 4th June 2019

Explorations in Creative Writing

- Un-seen fiction text - four questions.
- Descriptive Writing task

English Language Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes)

Friday 7th June 2019

Understanding Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

- 2 un-seen non-fiction texts – four questions.
- Opinion/persuasive writing