



Dear Students,

In September you will be beginning Year 10 English Language and English Literature. There are several considerations and expectations to bear in mind before this time.

The English department uses a variety of texts as well as other resources and materials for study in lessons. You may find the summaries and information about each text on Sparknotes useful (<https://www.sparknotes.com/>); simply search for the relevant text. The following texts are revision guides we sometimes refer to; although not mandatory purchases, you may find them useful:

- CGP Unseen Poetry - The Poetry Guide Book One
- CGP Power and Conflict - The Poetry Guide
- CGP Macbeth - The Text Guide
- CGP Animal Farm - The Text Guide
- CGP A Christmas Carol - The Text Guide
- CGP English Language - Exam Practice Workbook
- CGP English Language for the Grade 9-1 Course - The Revision Guide

In year 10 you will be studying the following topics:

- English Language Paper 1
- A Christmas Carol
- English Language Paper 2
- Power and Conflict Poetry
- Unseen Poetry
- Animal Farm

You may find it useful to read the Literature texts, specifically A Christmas Carol over the summer in preparation for September. It can also be useful to watch film versions; both the Jim Carey version and Muppets Christmas Carol are versions which stick relatively well to the original text.

Preparation for the Language Exam at this stage is best spent reading widely from both fiction and non-fiction sources. Please take some time over the summer to visit the local library or viewing the bookshelves at home to select a suitably difficult text to read. You should aim to read a book for 20 minutes 5 times a week and you should be stopping to find out the meaning of new vocabulary maybe once or twice each page or two. If you do not need to look up the meaning of a word, the book is probably too

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easy for you. If you do need to find the meaning of a word, please use an online learner's dictionary such as <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/> which will provide student friendly definitions.

A valuable resource you may wish to look at is the website created by Mrs Abbott <https://padlet.com/abbotr7/mrs-abbott-s-english-classroom-um2i154g21x24329>.

This contains useful resources covering the content of the Literature exams.

Literature exams are closed book, meaning you will only have one small extract from the original text or, in the case of Animal Farm, no extract at all. In year 10 your aim will be to understand the texts and learn quotations. We would suggest beginning this process early in year 10 by using flash cards. You may wish to use Quizlet (<https://quizlet.com/>) where you can create online flashcards to use.

At Harris Church of England Academy, we value the inclusion of extended learning and just as in previous academic years of 7, 8, 9 we expect students to spend a reasonable amount of time on weekly homework tasks set by your teacher. We would expect at least 35 to 40 minutes to complete tasks. Sometimes this may be an Educake quiz, other times it will be learning quotations or answering exam questions. This will vary from class to class depending on the progress of that class.

We sometimes have questions from students about set moves. Both Language and Literature run side by side and unlike maths, there are no higher or foundation papers in either of the English GCSEs. In all classes all of the content is covered, however this may be at a slightly different pace or the group may focus on a particular skill relevant to the majority of students in that class. Set changes can and do happen, however, they are not usual and will not affect many people.

Have a lovely summer and come back in September prepared to begin your GCSE studies with us.

The English Department



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