

13th January 2020

Dear parent/guardian,

The reformed GCSE English Language and Literature courses are a lot more challenging and cover much more content than the previous GCSE. The Government have made it very clear that all students should be aiming to achieve a minimum of a Grade 4 as a 'standard pass' but that really a 'strong pass' at Grade 5 or higher is what all young people will need to secure a successful future. Indeed, failure to achieve a Grade 4 at Language now results in students having to re-sit this qualification, and most colleges are now asking for Grade 5s in English to study their courses. With this in mind, we have taken the decision to extend the school day on Mondays for Year 11, adding a sixth period for English curriculum time from 3.15-4.15pm every week until the exams start. This additional English slot will be mandatory for all Year 11 students and will become a normal part of their timetabled day for Mondays.

We believe this is the best way to secure solid results for your child in two of their GCSEs – English Language and Literature. This will also ensure the very best future for them with regards to improving their chances of achieving a strong pass, or higher, in the final GCSE exams. This 'Period 6' will take place in their usual English classrooms and be delivered by their usual teacher, ensuring a quality programme of intervention is delivered which links closely to their existing English lessons.

If you should wish to discuss this decision further, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Mrs Astle as the Year 11 Progress Leader, or Miss Cassem as the Director of English.

Yours faithfully,



Mr L Barker
Deputy Headteacher

Kerry Inscker **Executive Principal** Andrew Williams **Acting Headteacher**

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