

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

A Specialist Business and Enterprise College with Applied Learning Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

Dear Parent/Guardian.

9th October 2020

I am writing to inform you of our intention to enter the majority of Year 10 students for GCSE English Literature in summer 2021, rather than 2022.

We have entered Year 10 early for English Literature for the past two years and achieved pleasing results.

We feel that early entry for this qualification will help the students to achieve higher grades in English Literature. As students started studying the course in Year 9, they will have had ample time to prepare by the end of Year 10. This will also allow students to focus fully on English Literature, without the additional pressure from other subjects. The examination board have specified that students sitting English Literature in 2021 will not have to study the whole course. Shakespeare and Unseen Poetry are compulsory and then, as a school, we have a choice to study two out of the three remaining texts. We have selected "A Christmas Carol", which was studied in Year 9, and "An Inspector Calls." Therefore, students will not have to study and revise 15 poems. Students sitting the examination in 2022 will have to study the full course.

In Year 11, students will be able to concentrate on English Language, which should help to improve grades. Also, students will have fewer exams at the end of in Year 11, enabling them to spend more time and effort revising and preparing for other subjects.

Thorough revision is essential if students are to reach their potential. Students are expected to attend 'Period 6' with their English teacher, every Monday, 2.40-3.30pm. It will be beneficial to establish this routine in Year 10 because, as you probably know, students are expected to attend daily 'Period 6' session throughout Year 11. Extra revision sessions will also be offered during weekends and school holidays in the spring term. However, it is essential that students also revise at home to ensure success in their GCSE examinations and the English Department are providing revision booklets to help with this.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

M Swaine

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