



January 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 10 English Update

A part of the GCSE English Language qualification that your son/daughter will be sitting, is a Spoken Language compulsory assessment. This provides a separately reported grade (Pass/Merit/Distinction) which will appear on pupils' certificates alongside the overall grade issued.

This assessment takes the form of a **five-minute presentation** on a subject of their own choice, followed by questions from the examiner; this is scheduled to take place during the week beginning 24th June.

In preparation for this, English teachers plan to complete some preparatory work during lessons, advising pupils how to structure and present their talk, although the onus will be on pupils to complete their planning and preparation as homework. In the event of pupil absence, information and preparation work for this assessment, including lesson materials on PowerPoint, will be made available using Show My Homework.

Pupils will be informed of the time of their assessment with an appointment card in June, but it is essential that pupils start preparing for their speeches as soon as possible so that their teacher can have a look at any drafts to provide further guidance. It would be very helpful if you could discuss ideas with your son or daughter and support them with this. In addition, on the back of this letter, I have reproduced the marking criteria for each grade so that you can see what is required.

Furthermore, all pupils will sit their first Year 11 mock English exam in Term 6. This will be **GCSE English Language Paper 2 – Writers' viewpoints and perspectives** and will last for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Pupils will be introduced to paper 2 this term and will be revisiting it closer to the exam, however, it is expected that pupils will be completing their own revision outside school. In the event of absence, information and lesson materials, including practice papers, will be made available to pupils via their teacher.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Chaplin'.

Tracey Chaplin
English Teacher

Marking Criteria

Pass	Merit	Distinction
In addition to the general criteria, to be awarded a Pass a Learner's performance in his or her spoken language assessment must meet all of the following criteria –	In addition to the general criteria, to be awarded a Merit a Learner's performance in his or her spoken language assessment must meet all of the following criteria –	In addition to the general criteria, to be awarded a Distinction a Learner's performance in his or her spoken language assessment must meet all of the following criteria –
expresses straightforward ideas / information / feelings,	expresses challenging ideas / information / feelings using a range of vocabulary,	expresses sophisticated ideas / information / feelings using a sophisticated repertoire of vocabulary,
makes an attempt to organise and structure his or her presentation,	•organises and structures his or her presentation clearly and appropriately to meet the needs of the audience,	organises and structures his or her presentation using an effective range of strategies to engage the audience,
makes an attempt to meet the needs of the audience, and	achieves the purpose of his or her presentation, and	achieves the purpose of his or her presentation, and
listens to questions / feedback and provides an appropriate response in a straight forward manner.	listens to questions / feedback responding formally and in some detail.	listens to questions / feedback, responds perceptively and if appropriate elaborates with further ideas and information.