



1 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Year 11 English-Drama Intervention

You may have noticed that on your son or daughter's timetable for 2021-2022 there is an additional lesson "Ei" for English. This will appear on the timetable as class code: Ei3, Ei4, Ei5 or Ei6. The groups are of mixed ability across the full range of the students in this cohort and will be different from your child's main English class. The numbering of the class is not an indication of ability.

In English we are particularly excited about the opportunities this additional lesson will bring to revisit and revise the core texts required for GCSE English Literature. The initial focus for the work will be "An Inspector Calls" and "The Merchant of Venice". In each lesson, students will be engaged in a practical, drama-based approach to the texts, led by highly experienced drama teachers, focussing on the knowledge, ideas and interpretations required for the AQA GCSE English Literature examination questions. We think this will be a fantastic way to bring the texts back to life for students and prepare them for their examinations, alongside revision and preparation for GCSE English Literature which will take place in their core English lessons.

Although the activities will be drama-based and involve participation in small group or pair activities and discussions, we would like to stress that there will be no requirement for individual or group performance or for students to perform to large groups of their peers. The teachers leading the sessions are highly experienced in using drama with students of all aptitudes and in exploring literary texts in this way and we feel this new approach to core texts is certain to be of benefit in developing pupils' knowledge of the texts and improving their confidence in writing about them in their final examinations.

If you require further information regarding this development, please contact Mrs Kellaway (Deputy Head of the English Faculty i/c Year 11 English) or Mrs Wilkinson (Deputy Head of the Faculty of Performing Arts and Head of Drama).

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Kellaway
Deputy Head of English

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