



Clacton County High School

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Higher Expectations, Raising Aspirations

Our Ref: KLOlet/EnglitY10

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Dear parent/carer

Year 10 English Literature

We wanted to update you on the most recent information we have received from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding examinations in 2021.

The government is currently saying that GCSE and A level examinations (and their equivalents) will go ahead in England next year. So it is our intention for all year 10 students to sit their English literature GCSE examination in 2021.

We have already received confirmation from exam boards of any changes to specification content to compensate for missed teaching time. Teachers have already made the required adjustments to the curriculum and our content for English literature is as follows:

Paper 1: An Inspector Calls and The Sign of Four

Paper 2: Macbeth and Unseen Poetry

Students *will not* be examined on the Conflict Poetry anthology.

There are however many questions that remain unanswered, such as what happens if students continue to have further disruption due to Covid-19? Some students will be at a disadvantage over others as they are required to self-isolate; whilst all schools will have remote learning practices in place for these students, it is sadly not the same as having face-to-face time with their teachers, yet they will all sit the same exam. Some schools have already had to make the difficult decision to close either partially or fully. The whole premise behind exams is to ensure fairness, a 'level playing field', and the decision to reduce some content and push back exams provides additional time for teaching and completing courses but does not ensure fairness when taking these exams.

This has been acknowledged by the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, who states: "Exams are the fairest way of judging a student's performance so they will go ahead, underpinned by contingency measures developed in partnership with the sector." We may know more by Christmas.

So what can we do in this time of uncertainty whilst we wait for further news from the government on what the contingency measures may look like? In hindsight, we learnt valuable lessons from the 2020 exam series when schools were required to submit Centre Assessed Grades. These grades were formed from a range of evidence such as: classwork, homework, non-examined assessment (coursework), in-class assessments and mock exams. Our message therefore, to all our students, is to make every lesson count and every learning opportunity count.

Now, more than ever, the mock examinations need to be taken seriously by students. They will not only provide a crucial opportunity to prepare for the summer, but will help gauge progress and individual student priorities for moving forward, and inform any required Centre Assessed Grade. Our first English literature paper 1 mock will be on Wednesday 11th November and we have attached some guidance <http://bit.ly/Yr10-English-Lit-Revision> - on how to help your child to revise for these examinations.

CGP revision guides on all three texts are also available from the English department via ParentPay <https://www.parentpay.com/>, priced £2.85 each.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01255 424266 or via email admin@cchs.school

Yours faithfully

K Loosley

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Deputy Headteacher