



# Darland High School

## Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

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Headteacher P. Agnew BA NPQH

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, your child has entered the final year of their GCSE studies; the next six months are crucial for them in terms of preparation for their final examinations. I wish to outline for you the programme which we have in place as an English Faculty to equip your child with the necessary skills for their final exams.

Currently, Year 11 are preparing for their Unit 1 English Literature exam. The external exam will take place **in the morning of WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2017**. We fully expect your child to perform to the best of their ability during this exam and achieve their full potential. We will support them and provide all the relevant guidance to help them succeed. However, if your child fails to perform to the full potential in this January exam, a resit opportunity will be available during the summer of 2017, but it will be payable by yourselves.

Each class teacher will communicate specific class revision opportunities to your child prior to this exam, but the whole of Year 11 are expected to attend an afternoon's revision session on **TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY**. This is a staff training day for the school, and will therefore be closed to all other pupils. It is imperative that your child attends this session though as final revision on the day prior to the actual exam, following a fortnight's Christmas break, will be invaluable. We appreciate that scheduled school buses will not be running on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, but we urge all parents to make alternative plans to ensure that their son / daughter arrives by 1.30pm. For those students who will face insurmountable difficulties in getting to school, please get in touch with me as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements could be discussed.

Once the January exam has taken place, your child will be working towards their remaining three exams for English: Unit 1 English Language, Unit 2 English Language, and Unit 2 Literature. These units will be examined during the summer exam series, the dates of which will be confirmed in due course. A lot of work has already taken place by their English teachers to prepare pupils for these units, and this will be consolidated over the coming months with focused exam practice and revision. Also during this time, your child will have the opportunity to do other controlled assessment pieces to improve upon the marks they achieved during Year 10.

For your child's English Language they have to be assessed on their speaking and listening, which contributes to 20% of their final grade. This is obviously a critical component of their Language course as it is the only controlled assessment aspect, therefore thorough planning and preparation by your child is of utmost importance. The assessments will take place during the week beginning **MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2017**, during which time a timetable will be set up for each pupil to be off-timetable for an hour with their English class teacher and a small group of their peers for the assessment. Each pupil will be guided and advised by their class teacher in the lead up to this assessment, but it is up to your child to ensure they also prepare independently to ensure they reach their maximum potential.

To recap, here are forthcoming key dates:

- **TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY: 1.30-3.30: FINAL REVISION AFTERNOON FOR UNIT 1 LITERATURE EXAM.**
- **WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY: 9AM: UNIT 1 LITERATURE EXAM.**
- **MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY (WEEK BEGINNING): FINAL SPEAKING AND LISTENING ASSESSMENTS.**

In order to support your child, there will be a programme of revision sessions held by teachers within the faculty to provide extra guidance on exam technique and speaking and listening preparation. This programme will be communicated to your child by their English teacher. If your child is struggling to complete English homework, they are welcome to come to room 15A during Friday lunchtimes to sit quietly and get work done.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, both for your child at home during such a critical academic time for them, and also for the English Faculty here at Darland as we prepare your child for their English examinations. If you have any queries or wish to discuss any aspect of your child's GCSE course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. C. Wasiuk (Faculty coordinator for English)