



Darland High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

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Headteacher P. Agnew BA NPQH

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I write to inform you of a change to the outlined English curriculum pathway communicated to you at the start of this academic year. The WJEC exam board has now made it possible for the current Year 10 to be entered for their English Language examinations at the end of Year 10, with further opportunities to resit, if necessary, in November 2017 and June 2017. We have decided to follow this assessment pathway as it maximises the opportunities that your child has to reach their full potential in their English Language course. With 80% of their final Language grade being determined on the basis of their performance in these examinations, the more chances your child has to improve upon their grade is clearly beneficial for them.

However, for entry to be made for the exams at the end of this academic year, your child must have completed a recorded speaking and listening assessment during this academic year, and not during Year 11 as we had previously stated. This contributes to 20% of their final grade, and is obviously a critical component of their Language course as it is the only controlled assessment aspect meaning thorough planning and preparation by your child is of utmost importance. The assessments will take place during the week beginning **MONDAY 30th 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.

The remainder of this academic year will consist of the study of key skills and techniques to enable your child to reach their full potential in the Language exams. Their understanding of how to respond to texts in a variety of ways is important, and all teachers will be covering past papers which will equip your child with the necessary skills to tackle each type of reading question. Of critical importance is your child's focus upon written accuracy as this is heavily weighted upon both final exam papers. Again, each class will be covering a wide range of writing styles with a heavy focus upon written accuracy to help prepare them for this aspect. Any further preparation that your child is able to do on this aspect in their own time at home will further strengthen their chances of success in this element, and we would appreciate your encouragement of your child's independent study at home.

With regards to English Literature, your child has already begun their study of the controlled assessment elements of this course. It is still our intention to complete all Literature controlled assessments during Year 10, as previously stated, as the Language skills embedded within these tasks will benefit their preparation for their English Language exams. There will be opportunity in Year 11 for your child to improve upon these controlled assessments. The study of the set texts for the final Literature exams will commence following the Language exams in the final half term of Year 10. The final Literature exams will still remain, as originally planned, to be in January of 2018 (Unit 1) and June 2018 (Unit 2).

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)