



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Friday 1 February 2019

GCSE English Language: Spoken Language Endorsement

Dear parent / carer,

Pupils are fast approaching their GCSEs. They should be revising for all of their subjects, including their two GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. I recommend that pupils create revision resources well in advance of their four written exams. For English Language, it will be useful to:

- know the question types on each of the two papers
- read and think critically about a range of fiction and non-fiction text extracts
- memorize the key linguistic and organizational features of each genre of text
- and practise spelling, punctuation and grammar exercises where necessary.

For English Literature, we recommend that pupils:

- re-read the set texts
- memorize a bank of key quotations (using index cards, for example)
- write essay plans for likely questions, following the predictable wording of past exam papers
- and undertake contextual research for *Jekyll and Hyde* and the anthology poems.

Completing extra practice papers for both GCSEs should improve pupils' writing in timed conditions.

However, there is one final important component of your child's GCSE English Language course that they need to prepare for, and I am writing so that you know what this is, how important it is and how to help them prepare for it: the Spoken Language Endorsement.

The Spoken Language Endorsement is a separate part of your child's GCSE. The grade for this will be Distinction, Merit, Pass or Fail, which will be reported on the GCSE English Language certificate. This certificate, alongside the pupil's mathematics certificate, is one that prospective employers will wish to see for years to come. Therefore, it will benefit pupils to achieve the highest grade possible.

Your child will be undertaking the Spoken Language Endorsement in the week commencing Monday 4 March; English Language teachers will notify pupils of the specific period during which the speaking assessment will take place. As a school, we are hopeful that pupils' speaking and listening abilities are at a highpoint as they reach a climax of their secondary education, nearing the end of Year 11.

The assessment requires candidates to deliver a formal speech and then answer questions on a topic of interest; the topic must be approved by their English Language teacher. The speech might be intended to persuade, inform or educate listeners. It must be engaging, informed and well-organized.

Your child will be working **independently** to write the speech for their Spoken Language Endorsement, which they should be doing in the lead up to and during the February half term holiday. In the holiday and throughout the following school week they should be rehearsing their

speeches and practising answering questions on the chosen topic. Therefore, it would be highly beneficial for your child to deliver this speech to a family member or a friend who can offer advice and ask some challenging questions.

I wish pupils every success. I will be speaking to all of Year 11 during assembly next week about the Spoken Language Endorsement. If pupils have any further questions, they should speak to their English Language teacher in the first instance. If you have any queries, you may contact the Head of English by emailing aw-clay-croome@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk or telephoning the school.

Yours faithfully,

A Clay-Croome

Mr A Clay-Croome
Head of English
Head of Petypher House
Whole-School Oracy & Literacy Coordinator

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Head of Year 11
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