



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

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Tuesday 13th October 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Re – GCSE English Literature

As you will know, your son or daughter has recently started their GCSE courses in English Language and English Literature. The new GCSE specifications have brought in several new requirements, including changes that now mean that all of the GCSE examinations will be 'closed book', meaning that students will not have access to their texts in the final examination. Another change is that students will now have to respond to questions on a Shakespeare play and a 19th century novel in one of these closed book examinations (traditionally such texts have been assessed through coursework or controlled assessment).

In order to help students meet the challenges that these changes have created, and to ensure that they are able to take real ownership of these texts in preparation for the final examination, we would like pupils to be able to annotate and make detailed notes in their texts as we study them. To this end, we would like pupils to purchase copies of the three texts studied on the Literature course: Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*.

The English Department will order copies of these texts for the whole year group and will be subsidising the costs of their purchase, but we would like parents to make a contribution of £15 towards the costs of the texts wherever possible. Though we do strongly advise students to purchase these texts, I would also like to stress that this is optional and those who choose not to purchase texts will be provided with the same copies as their classmates (though they will obviously be unable to annotate them).

The editions which we have ordered are designed specifically for GCSE study and they contain detailed notes, revision activities and contextual information. The Shakespeare text contains many full colour photographs of the play in performance and should greatly enhance pupils' understanding.

Payment for these texts can be made through Parent Pay in the usual way. If you are not able to make this contribution or if you have any questions about this, please email fearnleyb@ripongrammar.com in confidence.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Fearnley (Head of English)

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