Wednesday 21st September

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 two texts in question: *Romeo and Juliet* and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The English Department has already ordered 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 £10** towards the costs of the texts wherever possible. 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. If you are not able to make this contribution or if you have any questions about this, please email fearnleyb@ripongrammar.co.uk in confidence.

In addition, the department has arranged for the actor and storyteller Chris Cade to visit the school on the last day of the autumn term to deliver an interactive and dramatic telling of Dicken's *A Christmas Carol* to fourth form students. Our fourth form students saw Chris perform his show last year and found it both entertaining and educational and we think that this will be a valuable opportunity for our students.

We would be very grateful if you could complete the attached form below to indicate that you are happy to make a contribution towards the costs of purchasing these texts and towards the appearance of Chris Cade at RGS. Completed slips, along with payment (either by ParentPay, or via cash or cheque payable to Ripon Grammar School) should be handed into your son or daughter's English teacher or to Mrs Grime in room 16 at break. Any parents who feel that they are unable to make this contribution should contact the school in confidence.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Fearnley (Head of English)

Ripon Grammar School

Engineering Specialism within a Grammar School

Re-founded 1555

Ofsted
Outstanding
2011|2012

<u>English Department</u>

Name of pupil:

Form:

I **will/ will not** (please delete as applicable) be able to make a contribution of £10 towards the cost of the purchase of set texts for GCSE English Literature.

☐ I **enclose a cheque** for £10 made payable to Ripon Grammar School

☐ **I enclose £10 cash**

☐ I **have paid** £10 via ParentPay

Signed: _____