

# GCSE English Information for Parents 2023

## A general introduction to GCSE English

### English Language

English is a vital form of communication for students to go on and succeed in their lives and chosen careers. Many jobs now request literacy and numeracy tests, as well as an emphasis in oral skills (speaking, listening and manners). Students will need to demonstrate a range of excellent communication skills to succeed in their working lives and when forming friendships and relationships.

At Westborough High School, the study of English language allows students to investigate the purpose and intention of language. Over the two years, students follow a course of study which prepares them to sit two examinations in English language. In both papers students are required to read, understand and analyse texts before applying these skills to their own writing. Please find the exam details below:

### Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing (50% of the Language GCSE)

- Section A: Analysis of one literature, fictional text through a series of four questions
- Section B: An extended fictional writing piece based on a provided stimulus

### Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints and perspectives (50 % of the Language GCSE)

- Section A: Analysis and comparison of two non-fiction texts, through a series of four questions
- Section B: An extended non-fiction writing piece based on presenting a viewpoint

To complete their English Language GCSE, all pupils must undertake the compulsory spoken language endorsement. This involves delivering a short presentation to their class and is assessed separately to their overall GCSE grading.

### English Literature

The study of English literature builds upon their language studies to explore literary texts over time. Pupils study their set texts in chronological order. This allows them to map historical change and to compare portrayals across different forms, as well as developing their interpretative and analytical skills. Please see below for the selected set texts.

### Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (40% of the Literature GCSE)

- Section A: Romeo and Juliet
- Section B: A Christmas Carol

### Paper 2: Modern Prose and Poetry (60% of the Literature GCSE)

- Section A: An Inspector Calls
- Section B: The Poetry Anthology: Power and Conflict
- Section C: Unseen Poetry

## Opportunities to get help from the English Department

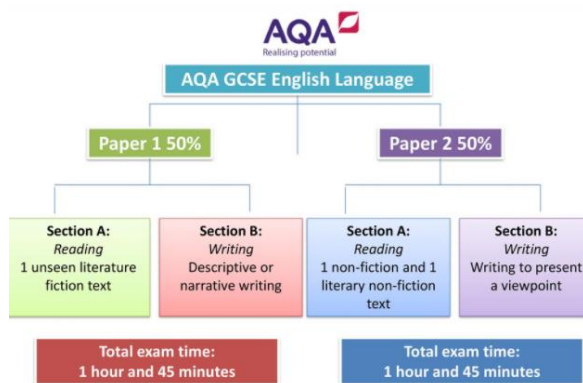
- 4 hours of lessons + 45 min period 6 after school on Tuesday
- On request and subject to available time, teachers will help at before school and at lunchtimes too.
- Feedback & support through Email and MS Teams. Teachers also share material on MS Teams

## How students will be assessed

The exam board for English is AQA

Information about the exams including past papers and enlarged papers can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english>



All exams will be at the end of Year 11. You will also sit an English Literature GCSE.

## How can parents help plan for success in the GCSE exams?

- Encourage weekly revision time – ideally 2-3 hours on weekends
- Students should complete one extended essay or question response per week, ideally at weekends
- Copies of the set Literature texts should be read and annotated where possible
- Timelines of the set texts are an important revision task
- Students should revise key quotes for characters, using flashcards and post-it notes
- Purchase copies of the GCSE workbooks and revision guides from school (available after half term)
- Visit BBC Bitesize
- Watch YouTube revision videos such as 'Mr Bruff' to gain insights into each question
- Complete past papers found in GCSE Language revision guides or from your teacher