

9 September 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you of some changes to the English Language and English Literature GCSE courses for all year 10 students. Like many courses this year, all external assessments will take place at the very end of the course in the summer of 2017, when your child is in year 11.

We are delighted to be starting the new course this week, by studying a set literature exam text called "Pigeon English" by Stephen Kelman. This is a debut novel by an English author written from the point of view of an eleven-year-old Ghanaian immigrant living on a tough London estate. The book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2011 and is a powerful, moving novel much loved by young people and adults alike. We feel sure that students (and parents!) will enjoy it.

In order for our students to be best prepared for their English Literature examination in 2017, we suggest that students should have their own copy of the text as soon as possible so that they can annotate it in class, make notes and be able to study and revise from the text as part of their home learning. The text will belong to the student and can be taken home as required. Students may purchase a copy from their English teacher as it is the edition approved by the exam board and these are available immediately at a cost of £7.99. Students can then write their names in and be responsible for their own text. If you wish to purchase your own copy of this text, please ensure that it is the correct version, approved by the exam board, which is ISBN number 978-1-4088-2820-5. Payment can be made via WisePay at the set cost of £7.99. Students who are eligible for Pupil Premium will be given a text free of charge. If you are unsure whether your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, please contact Georgina Emsley, Finance Manager.

If your child does not wish to purchase their own copy of the text, we will have some available for classwork, but these must be returned at the end of the lesson and annotation inside the text will not be permitted.

We look forward to teaching your child this year and will do our very best to ensure that they make good progress in English. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sale or your child's English Teacher on 01903 767434.

Yours faithfully



**Mrs C Sale**  
**Assistant Director of English**

