



27<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear parent / carer,

As I am sure you are aware, Year 12 have begun working on the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) unit for English Language and Literature. The piece of work represents 20% of their final A Level grade, so is clearly a very significant task. There are strict regulations from the exam board governing the level and nature of support students can receive from teachers. As such, we have been working with students this term to help them understand the requirements of the task, as well as facilitating lots of self and peer assessment of the work. There is no limit to the amount of times that peers or parents can read and critique their work! However, as teachers, we can only provide guidance and general comments on the work; we cannot give the sort of specific advice we would with a practice exam response, for example (eg. we can advise the student to check their punctuation carefully, but we cannot say 'you need to put full stops in paragraph 3' etc). Students are using 'Flowers for Algernon' by Daniel Keyes and their own choice of non-literary text. These non-literary text choices have been approved by teachers, and where necessary, the exam board. The final essay must present a balanced, precise discussion of the two texts.

Over the summer holidays, students will be required to complete their first draft. This first draft is due in on **18<sup>th</sup> September**. This will be marked (within the stringent rules set out by the exam board) and returned to students by **31<sup>st</sup> October**. Students will then have until **11<sup>th</sup> December** to improve and edit their draft before the final submission.

Due to the nature of the task, and the regulations of the exam board, it is imperative that students meet these deadlines. There will not be an option for an extension or a 'second draft', as this is not permitted by the exam board. Between now and the summer holidays, I will be ensuring that your child has a clear understanding of what is required for the task and the specific areas they need to focus on for their NEA task.

In September, students will begin studying the final texts they will be examined on in June 2018. These texts are 'Othello' and 'The Great Gatsby'; both texts need to be read over the summer. We have recommended that students buy the following editions:

Othello: Arden Shakespeare edition ISBN: 978-1472571762

The Great Gatsby: Wordsworth Classics edition ISBN: 978-1853260414

Bursary support is available to support students whose families may find themselves in financial hardship. A request for bursary support for these books may be made via Mrs Ponting in the Sixth Form Centre.

Many thanks for your support and I hope the students have a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Barlow  
(Head of Key Stage 5 English)

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