

10th November 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

In the English Department, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given your son over the half term holiday with the completion of their course work. As the deadline for coursework passes, the exams start approaching.

For your information, the next twenty school weeks will be crucial in English. Exams start this year with Literature on 23rd May, Language will follow on 7th June. Before the end of the autumn term Year 11 will sit a formal mock in both Literature and Language. The grades they achieve will give them a realistic expectation of the resilience they will have to show and the hard work they will have to undertake in order for them to achieve the grade they both need and deserve next summer.

Over these coming weeks students will have to revise and learn the plot, characters and themes of R.C. Sherriff's, '*A Journey's End*'. They will also have to learn how to analyse and respond to an unseen poem, as well as refine their comprehension and writing skills. As part of their preparation, students will be expected to complete at least three exam practices (timed essays) a week – two in lessons, one for prep. In addition, we will run breakfast sessions, starting from 9th November 2015. These sessions will run from 8.30am until 9.15am. Your son will not be expected to attend every session but will be told which session he is to attend. The idea here, is that while we are studying one aspect of the course in lessons, we can cover another in the morning sessions, therefore keeping as much information as fresh as possible.

We wish you a relaxing Christmas break with your son, and what better way to do this than by reading by twinkling fairy lights and a crackling log fire, your son's gratefully received gifts of his own copy of '*A Journey's End*' and accompanying York revision notes (£11.98 for both on Amazon!)? At February half term, we will send a revision pack home for your son to complete in the two weeks he is at home.

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In addition, in the spring term, we will run a Parents Revision Session for all Yr11 parents, which will tell you precisely what is on the exam papers and how you can specifically support your son over Easter. This will be followed by a similar session for Maths. Please support your son by ensuring he attends all the extra sessions allocated to him.

Students should have completed all coursework by the end of December. However, if some boys still have work outstanding, this will start to affect their revision and exam preparation not only in English, but in other subjects when they return after the Christmas break.

Hope you had a good half term and we look forward to seeing you all in December.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jayne Taylor-Lane". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

JAYNE TAYLOR-LANE
Head of English Department