



24 June 2021

### Year 14 A2 English Literature – Summer Reading 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to advise pupils who wish to continue their study of English Literature to A2 Level about some important preparatory work and reading.

It is a requirement that each pupil should complete an initial reading and some research around both *King Lear* by William Shakespeare, and *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* by Geoffrey Chaucer.

- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare ([click here](#)).
- *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* by Geoffrey Chaucer ([click here](#)).

We strongly encourage pupils to purchase their own copies of both of these class texts for making notes, and annotations. Purchasing their own copies would also benefit pupils in light of the hygiene concerns and current PHA guidance regarding COVID-19 with regards to access to shared/borrowed materials and books.

There are also some good study guides available for both texts, if pupils wish to purchase their own. However, this is **not** a requirement, and copies of both can be borrowed from the library, or from the English department.

- *Study and Revise: King Lear* ([click here](#)).
- *Study and Revise: The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* ([click here](#)).

Over the summer, pupils should also continue the work on dystopian prose begun on Google Classroom (*6vgffjam*). This is in preparation for A2 Unit 3: Internal Assessment (coursework). For this, students are ultimately required to complete a 2500-word essay. The key challenge is that all students must research and write their essays independently, with very limited input from teaching staff. This piece is a key assessment at A Level and should, therefore, be taken very seriously (see the CCEA specification, [pages 23-25](#)).

With this in mind, it is imperative that pupils keep up to date with the work and deadlines set by their teacher in order to achieve their full potential in this assessment. Therefore, by the start of term, all pupils should have:

- Completed reading and annotation of *The Road* (Mrs Graham) or *The Testaments* (Mrs Patterson);
- Completed additional reading of at least three other dystopian novels recommended by the English department;
- Completed some additional research, using the material on Google Classroom as a starting point;
- Decided upon their preferred theme and comparison novel.

We hope this information will enable the pupils studying English Literature to A2 Level to be well prepared and ready for a challenging course ahead. It is worth emphasising that one of the aims of the CCEA Revised Specification for A Level is, 'to allow students to develop as discerning readers,

capable of independent and critical research'. We hope that pupils will enjoy exploring the texts as much as we do.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the work of the English Department during these challenging times.

Kind regards

**Mrs E Graham**  
**Head of English and Drama**



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