



Penryn
College

'Achieving through Challenge'

October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

With the first term of GCSEs now well underway, I am writing to give you some key information about GCSE English Language and English Literature at Penryn College.

In Year 10, we will be studying four units of work: Modern Drama, Poetry, Creative Reading and Writing and Shakespeare. As I am sure you are aware, your child is currently studying a modern play (the majority of the year group are studying 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell; students in Mr Leonard's class are studying 'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley. Students have all been given their own paper copy of the play they are studying, so they annotate the script with their own detailed notes. Since the beginning of September, all of our English lessons and homework has been focused on studying this text and preparing for an assessment on this play.

All four units of work in Year 10 (outlined above) result in a formal End of Unit Assessment, which takes place in exam conditions. Our forthcoming Modern Drama assessment will take place after half term: w/c 7th November. Students will be given one hour to write an essay in response to a question based on the play - in line with GCSE guidelines, students will not have access to a copy of the play. The formality of this procedure ensures that students are familiar with the format and venue for their final GCSEs, when they arrive, and the assessment provides both teachers and students with an invaluable indication of where students are in their learning and the areas that still need to be addressed and developed.

In order to achieve success in this forthcoming assessment, students will need to prepare fully, completing all classwork, homework and revision set for them, as well as ensuring that all catch-up work is also completed. Students are required to know the play they are studying, as well as the characters and the themes. They need to be familiar with the context of the play, where it was set, what was happening at the time and why this is significant, as well as understanding the views, attitudes and concerns of the playwright. They also need to be able to analyse the language, structure and dramatic devices in the play, using quotations from the play (which they will need to remember), explaining their effects in depth and detail.

Students have lots of resources to revise from on Showbie. They will have Flashcards, key terminology, key quotations and practice paragraphs/essays to use for their revision. Any help that you are able to offer them at home, in terms of talking through the play, testing them on quotations, key scenes and key words, will be invaluable and much appreciated.



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We are very keen to ensure that the start to GCSE is as positive as possible for our students and we would really like all students to feel success in this forthcoming assessment. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your child's English teacher, if you require any further information or support.

Yours faithfully

Emmie Williams
Head of English



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