

Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

10th January 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a lovely, restful and enjoyable Christmas period. Students have started back to Term 3 already demonstrating personal excellence. Myself and the senior team led assemblies on day one for all year groups, sharing information on student voice and the changes that have been made from suggestions given. We also went through what personal excellence looks like for each value so students are clear on how to show courtesy or compassion within the community.

We also launched our £20.25 challenge set by the Friends of Willingdon School. Every child is expected to fundraise this money so they can demonstrate leadership skills. They have until Easter to do so. All money is reinvested in the school and decided by the Friends who are made up of parents. If you wish to join, please contact

friends@willingdonschool.org.uk or join our next meeting on Wednesday, 15th January 2025 at 5.30pm.

There will be a raffle which will include all students who raise this money in the challenge. First prize is £200, second and third are All for One shopping vouchers of £100 and £50. Please support our school by engaging with your child about how they will fundraise!

Thanks to Year 11 parents who attended last night's parents evening. These events are crucial to attend in order to get an update on where your child is and how you can support their educational journey.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our next Parent Forum which is being held next Thursday, 16th January. The details are repeated on page 3.

Also, we have our Year 9 Options Evening and it is essential a parent or carer of every child attends to hear the key messages please.

Also, if you missed my message before Christmas, you can access it here [click link](#)

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs May

Headteacher

The Friends of Willingdon


PRESENTS

 **THE**  **2025**  **CHALLENGE** 

**WE ARE ASKING ALL STUDENTS TO TRY AND
RAISE £20.25 – HOWEVER THEY CAN!**

**RAISE
£20.25**

**£5 VOUCHER TO THE FIRST
IN EACH YEAR TO COMPLETE
THE CHALLENGE!** 

**How can you raise £20.25?
sponsored bike ride, walk, swim. Bake
sale, car washing? Its up to you!** 

**All money is to be in by
Thursday 3rd April. Prize draw to
take place week commencing 22nd
April**

Completed the challenge?

You'll be entered into our prize draw after Easter to win:

£200 Merlin Voucher

£100 One4all Voucher

£50 one4all Voucher



Email friends@willingdonschool.org.uk

**If students choose to take on a sponsored challenge, Friends of Willingdon
have provided a Sponsor Form, attached.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 3

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING - Thursday 16th January - 5pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm

PARENT FORUM (2 SESSIONS) - Thursday 16th January - 4pm-5pm & 5.30pm-6.30pm

MACBETH THEATRE TRIP (YEAR 9) - Friday 24th January

PARENT TOURS - Thursday 30th January - 8.15am - 9.45am

YEAR 10/11 APPRENTICESHIP AWARENESS ASSEMBLIES - Monday 9th February

SCHOOL PRODUCTION - ALL DAY REHEARSAL - Saturday 8th February

SCHOOL PRODUCTION - Wednesday 12th / Thursday 13th February - 6pm

SKI TRIP DEPARTS - Thursday 13th February

END OF TERM 3 / INSET Day - Friday 14th February (Year 11 mock exams)

START OF TERM 4 - Monday 24th February

SAVE THE DATE

YEAR 11 SCHOOL PROM - Friday 4th July

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Friday 4th April 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

(staggered by year group from 12.20pm-12.40pm)

INSET DAYS

Friday 14th February 2025

(Year 11 Mock Exams)

Visits to the school during the school day

We would like to open our doors again to parents who would like to meet with a senior leader and have a tour with the school in action during the day. The next day and time is -

Thursday, 30th January 2025 8.15am-9.45am

Please click on the below link to book your tour. We will also see your child's class if you wish or we can avoid it if you would prefer! This is a great way of seeing the school, warts and all! The previous parent tours we did were very successful and we appreciated the parent feedback and observations made.

[Parent Tours during the school day](#)



Please join us in congratulating this week's Students of the Week for their outstanding contributions to our school community. Students will be invited to share a hot chocolate with Mrs May in recognition of their hard work.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Isla P 7ALE	Daisy B 8NKL	Georgia F 9CPA	Jasmine T 10DMC	Liam D 11LCN
Jessica R 7SMI	Freya C 8NKL	Connor P 9CPA	Bryony M 10EOR	Jemma B 11AED
India W 7EMC	Lola H 8NKL	Rian N-S 9CPA	Darcy P 10MJE	Flossy B 11CPA
Tabitha G 7DBR	Masha W 8RCR	Amie C 9GEL	Cara C 10JHA	Finlay H 11HPO
Oscar S 7EMC	Morgan B 8NKL	Darcie G 9PHI	Emma H 10DMC	Chayse L 11CPH

6th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Forum

We are writing to invite you to our next Parent Forum. These forums are a fantastic way to keep you updated with our school improvement plan and national educational policy. Parents asked to have more notice of these events, so we have put a date out now for your diaries.

Thursday, 16th January 2025 - 2 sessions

4pm - 5pm (before the Year 9 Options Evening)

5.30pm -6.30pm

In person

1. Open Agenda – Led by parents

Following parental feedback, we are giving parents the opportunity to drive this agenda. Please submit topics you would like us to focus upon.

Please be reminded that these forums are not an occasion to discuss individual students. Please refer any individual issues to your child's Tutor or Head of Year.

If you would like to attend the above Parent Forum and would like to suggest topics to be discussed, please complete the below google form.

[Parent Forum - January 2025](#)

If you are unable to attend this forum, we will produce a second podcast detailing our main discussion areas.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E May
Headteacher

Willingdon Community School

QUIZ NIGHT



Charity No. 1154283

Friday 31st January 2025

Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start

Teams of up to 6 people

£5 entry per person

Bring your own food and alcohol. Tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase. Book your place via

with prizes & a raffle!

Come along and challenge the staff at Willingdon teams

To ensure that students can access their learning straight away, we are expecting students to bring the following equipment to every Maths lesson. Students will require a pen, pencil ruler and scientific calculator. It is crucial that students know how to use their own calculator. Students in Y11 especially will want to make sure that they are confident with the model that they are using. We cannot guarantee that they will given the same model in the exam. Calculators are available on ParentPay at cost price.

From Monday, the Maths Department will be conducting equipment checks to ensure all students can start the lesson and make the most of the time available. Please speak to your child and ensure that they have the correct equipment with them. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Maths Teacher.

Are you equipped for Maths?



From Monday we will be expecting students to have the required equipment - **every lesson.**

ENRICHMENT CLUBS - TERM 3



PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Every Tuesday Lunchtime

Looking to try something new? Join the Photography Club and discover the world of photography! Each week, we'll work on exciting projects inspired by themes like nature, where you'll get the chance to interpret ideas and create your own unique images. You'll also have the opportunity to participate in fundraising events to help raise money for new school equipment, such as cameras.

Come along and explore a creative new hobby while making memories and helping the school!

Looking for something new this term?

Why not join the **Film Club**! Whether you're into action, drama, comedy, or something else, we've got a variety of genres to explore. Plus, there's always plenty of popcorn!

When: Thursdays, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Where: G1

We'd love to see you there!



FILM

CLUB

Ms Bearnese

TEXTILES CLUB!!

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
AN OPEN CREATIVE SPACE
THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO
EXPLORE
TEXTILES IN ALL AREAS.

EVERY
WEDNESDAY
LUNCHTIME
IN DT1



KS3 STEM CLUB NEED YOUR EMPTY TOILET PAPER AND KITCHEN ROLL TUBES - IF YOU COULD HELP US, STUDENTS CAN DROP THESE OFF WITH THE SCIENCE LAB TECHNICIANS

You can find a full list of our enrichment clubs for Term 3 attached to this email and on our website -

<https://willingdonschool.org.uk/lear.../enrichment-programme>



Information from Stagecoach

The cheapest bus tickets are the £3 single fare cap ticket, the U19 East Sussex DayRider for £3.75 and then the Freedom weekly ticket at £15 - to use this, all Under 19 year olds need to have ID – and they would need to apply for a 3i-D card here:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roads-transport/public/concessionary-fares/money-saving-travel-schemes/3i-d-card>

If students are wearing school uniform, they may not need ID but it seems some bus services ask for ID whilst others don't. It may therefore be worthwhile getting the above 3-iD card.

Stagecoach no longer offer return fares.

All this information can be located here - <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/service-updates/serviceupdatesarticle?SituationId=ID-18/12/2024-13:26:07:206>



Head of Year
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

We'd like to welcome all our Year 7 students back to school after the holidays! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break!

Coming back into a school routine can be tricky – so please can you support students by helping them stay up to date with their homework. To aid this, please can we remind you of our homework support sessions which take place in school throughout the week both at lunchtime and after school.

- Tuesdays and Thursdays are the Year 7 specific homework support sessions at lunch in MA3
- Maths run homework support at lunchtimes from Monday to Friday in the IT rooms
- There are also sessions running in the IT rooms after school on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Can we also please remind you that all students should come to school with a fully equipped pencil case.

Finally, there has been one change in our tutor team - Mr Edwards will no longer be taking 7EMC on a Friday, this will now be covered by Mrs Hughes.

The Year 7 Team



Head of Year
Mr Keast

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

We would like to warmly welcome all Year 8 students back for the new year and hope that everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas. Year 8 have settled back into the routine of school very well this week earning an abundance of reward points for their efforts across the board. We would just like to remind all parents about the importance of sending students to school wearing the correct school uniform, on non PE days this includes wearing a tie and blazer. Students should also be wearing black school shoes rather than trainers and nails and eyelashes need to be 'natural-looking'. If there are any concerns regarding uniform then please contact the 'pastoral 8' email address ahead of time so we can get the message out to teachers not to sanction. Thank you for your cooperation!

In other news, we would like to recognise Sonny-R C's achievements over the past year. He is in the talent programmes for four Olympic sports (Flag Football GB development U13, Handball, Basketball [although he is currently out of this talent pathway cycle], and Athletics), and has also qualified for international competition in powerlifting. At the moment he is playing U14 National League Premier Basketball, is in the South Regional Academy for Handball, and last summer represented Sussex in the summer in shot put (number 9 in the UK for 2024) and discus (number 18 in the UK for 2024) with notable wins at the Sussex champs, Inter-counties champs (where he competed for Sussex), and the South of England champs in the shot put. Unfortunately, Sonny-R has injured his ankle at present but we wish him well soon and to be able to get back to his training and ready for a busy 2025 of competing again.

The Year 8 Team



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9

We have had a great week welcoming the students back into school, following the Christmas holidays. Year 9 students seemed to have returned in a mature and positive frame of mind, which has been really pleasing to see.

It is such an important time this term, with the Options Process looming, please see the timeline as a reminder below:

- **Thursday 16th January** Period 5 and Period 6 – Student Taster Sessions
- **Thursday 16th January** 5pm-7pm – Parents/Carers Curriculum Information Evening
- **Friday 24th January** – Trial run of options forms (online)
- **Friday 31st January** – Final options forms completed (paper)
- **March 2025** – Parents/Carers informed of confirmed choices

We look forward to seeing you all, along with students next Thursday evening. Should you have any questions regarding the Options Process, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The finalised Option Blocks are below for your reference:

The Year 9 Team

Option Blocks 2025 v2

You will have to choose one option from each block. Not all the subjects below will run, we require a healthy number of students for each class.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography	Spanish	ICT	Art
History	French	Dance	Drama
Spanish	Latin	DT	DT
French	Geography	PE GCSE	PE GCSE
	History	Ethics	Child Development
	PE V-Cert	Food Preparation	Food Preparation
	Child Development	Music	Sociology
	Food Preparation	Psychology	Business Studies
		Travel & Tourism	Psychology
		Business Studies	Astronomy

YEAR 9 TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, POLIO, & MENINGITIS ACWY VACCINATION PROGRAMME - Important information for parents/guardians

The Immunisation Service are coming into school to offer your child the **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio (Td/IPV) and Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) vaccination(s)**.

Attached to this email is the **Td/IPV & MenACWY parent letter** which contains information about the upcoming vaccination session and instructions on how to complete the online consent form.

If you are unable to open the links within the attached document, please follow the links below.

For information about the Td/IPV & MenACWY vaccines and frequently asked questions:
<https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/resources/patient-resources/tetanus-diphtheria-and-polio-and-meningitis-vaccinations>

To complete a consent form:

<https://www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/DTP>

You will need the school code found within the attached parent letter to complete a consent form.



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9



Willingdon
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YEAR 9 – IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM AND HOLOCAUST EDUCATION SESSION.

Tuesday 18th March 7.00am – 5.30pm

Dear Parent/Carer

We are arranging a trip for Year 9 students to visit the Imperial War Museum in London. As part of the trip students will have time to explore the displays which include exhibitions on World War One, World War Two and Peace and Security 1945 to 2014. This is a fantastic opportunity to support and enhance your child's knowledge of 20th century history and for them to engage with historical artefacts from photographs and letters to a Spitfire and a T34 tank. During the day the students will also engage with museum staff who will run an education session focussed on the Holocaust, students will then have an opportunity to visit the Holocaust gallery.

The coaches will be leaving from school promptly at 7.15am, so students will need to arrive and register with staff in the canteen at **7.00am**. [Please consider how your child will get to school, as the coaches have to leave Willingdon before the school buses arrive.](#)

We anticipate arriving back at school at approximately 5.30pm. Students are expected to wear their school PE kit so that they are easily identifiable and so that they have comfortable walking shoes for the museum. A packed lunch will be required. If your child is entitled to free school meals, please indicate this when you make your payment on ParentPay and this can be collected before we depart.

If your child suffers with travel sickness that requires medication not currently held in school, they will need to take the medicine before they travel in the morning and you will need to provide the medication in a named box, to be administered by a member of staff, before we travel back. If medication is required, please indicate this when you make your payment on ParentPay. Students with asthma should carry their inhalers with them.

We have 44 places on the trip. The cost for the whole trip is £41.00, which covers all travel and venue costs. To confirm your child's place on the trip, would you kindly pay via ParentPay. The payment will secure your child's place on the coach and the trip will operate on a first come first served basis. (ParentPay will open at 9am on Monday morning).

If you have any questions or queries please contact Ms Hardwick jhardwick@willingdonschool.org.uk or Mrs Hughes lhughes@willingdonschool.org.uk.

Poor behaviour/low attendance will not be tolerated at Willingdon Community School. Therefore, we reserve the right to cancel a student's participation in a trip if behaviour/attendance does not reach our expected high standards.

Please ensure all medical information held on Arbor is up to date before the trip date.

Kind regards,

The History Department



Head of Year
Mr Roche

Email - pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 10

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all Year 10 students back to school and to thank you for your continued support during Term 2. Your involvement and encouragement has been invaluable, and I am hopeful we can carry that momentum forward into another successful Term 3.

We have started the term strongly, achieving the highest attendance in the school so far, which is a fantastic achievement! Let's work together to maintain this excellent standard throughout January and into February.

As we navigate the colder weather, I would like to kindly remind everyone of the importance of ensuring students are equipped with the correct uniform, particularly on PE days. Please make sure they bring a suitable PE jumper, if they wear one, as they may be participating in outdoor activities. Additionally, students should wear their blazers and appropriate cold-weather jackets when outside during break and lunchtime.

I would also like to inform you about a small change in the Year 10 pastoral team. The team now consists of myself as Head of Year and Mr de Panama as Pastoral Support Lead. Mrs. Codling has transitioned into a role supporting students in ARRCH. While she will still interact with some of our Year 10 students in this capacity, she is no longer part of the Year 10 team. I would like to personally thank Mrs Codling for her tireless dedication and effort in supporting our students during her time as a Pastoral Lead at Willingdon School.

If you need to contact the Year 10 team, please do so via email at pastoral10@willingdonschool.org.uk.

I look forward to continuing this positive start to the term and wish you all the best for the new year ahead.

Mr Roche
Head of Year 10



Year 10 & 11

Year 10/11 Important information: Outstanding Td/IPV and MenACWY vaccinations

FOR STUDENTS WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THE Td/IPV & MenACWY IN YEAR 9 - WILLINGDON SCHOOL DO NOT HOLD THIS INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE IMMUNISATION TEAM DIRECT.

The Immunisation Service are coming into school for a **Tetanus/Diphtheria/Polio (Td/IPV) and Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY)** vaccination catch up session on **25th February 2025** to offer these vaccines to students in years **10** and **11** who have **not yet** received the Td/IPV & MenACWY vaccinations, which are routinely offered in Year 9.

If this applies to your child and:

You have already completed and returned a consent form; the Immunisation Team will contact you prior to offering this vaccination.

OR

You consented for your child to receive this vaccination at a different school, and it is still outstanding, please contact your local Immunisation team on **01273 696011 EXT 4931** so that they can update your child's consent form.

OR

You have not yet consented and would like to do so please request the consent information from your child's school.

For information about the Td/IPV & MenACWY vaccines and frequently asked questions visit: [Frequently Asked Questions | Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Polio and Meningitis \(sussexcommunity.nhs.uk\)](https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/frequently-asked-questions-tetanus-diphtheria-and-polio-and-meningitis)

Please see parent letter attached to this email.





Head of Year
Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11

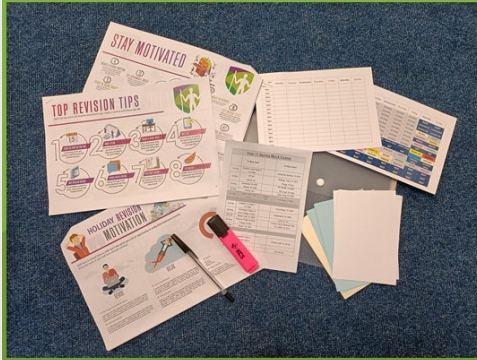
YEAR 11 PARENTS EVENING



Thursday 9th January

Thank you to all parents/ carers who were able to attend the Year 11 Parents Evening yesterday. This was a very successful evening.

Students had the opportunity to meet with their teachers and get feedback on progress and focus targets to action in preparation for their mocks exams which start on 10th February.



Students were provided with revision packs which included:

- Revision tips
- Strategies to keep motivated
- Mock exam timetable
- Revision timetable with an example
- Blank flash cards
- Highlighter and pen

If your child was unable to attend, please ask them to come to the Year 11 office on Monday to collect their revision pack



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MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS.

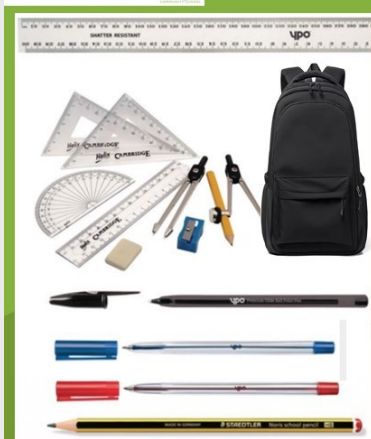
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY



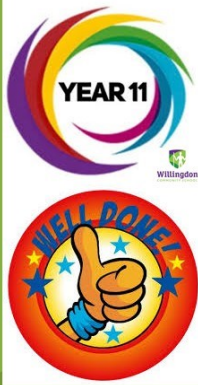
Equipment for Learning

Please can you ensure that when your child returns after the holidays that they arrive to school everyday equipped to learn.

All students should have a school bag containing all the equipment required to support their learning and progress in lessons.



Year 11 Learning Walks



Well done to Year 11 students who have demonstrated great focus and engagement during lesson walk throughs this week.

Students have been demonstrating that they are embracing their learning opportunities in lessons and are driven to be successful in the upcoming mock exams which start on 10th February.

TOP REVISION TIPS

Don't let the stress of revision overwhelm you. Stay in control with these top tips.



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- 1 **START AS EARLY AS YOU CAN**
Cramming at the last minute is stressful and has limited success.
- 2 **MAKE A PLAN**
Work out how much time you have and how long you can spend on each subject.
- 3 **CREATE A STUDY SPACE**
Find a quiet spot away from distractions and keep your things all in one place.
- 4 **MIX IT UP**
Use a mixture of revision for best results. See our metacognition pods for more info.
- 5 **TAKE REGULAR BREAKS**
It is possible to work too hard, make sure to take regular breaks.
- 6 **REVISE WITH A FRIEND**
Talking through what you've learned can help information stick.
- 7 **USE PAST PAPERS**
These are a great way to get used to exam format and testing what you have learnt.
- 8 **EAT HEALTHY**
Certain foods boost your brainpower and will help you remember more.

STAY MOTIVATED

Support your child staying motivated as they prepare for their mock exams



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- 1 **CREATE A STUDY ROUTINE**
By nature, we're creatures of habit. If you find it difficult to motivate yourself to study, this tip may be beneficial to you.
- 2 **SET ATTAINABLE GOALS**
Whether you set yourself a time goal or an amount of work to complete, it is important to challenge yourself.
- 3 **STUDY IN SHORT BURSTS**
You are more likely to retain information from short bursts of learning as your attention will be increased.
- 4 **REVIEW YOUR RESULTS**
Reviewing your results is important to check where you have gone wrong and to keep away from similar mistakes in the future. It's also an essential motivating factor to see how much you have improved.
- 5 **EXERCISE**
Exercise is a great way to motivate yourself. Impacting attitude, cognitive skills and classroom behaviour.
- 6 **INSPIRE YOURSELF**
Post reminders and inspirational quotes in prominent places about what you want to achieve.
- 7 **DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHERS**
Don't try to compare yourself with others and try to focus on your own results and how you can improve them.
- 8 **GET ENOUGH SLEEP**
Make sure you get enough sleep, ideally 7-9 hours every night. This will help to encourage a relaxed and well-rested mind and body.
- 9 **REWARD YOURSELF**
Every time you complete one or two chunks, reward yourself with a short period of relaxation. Rewarding yourself with short and enjoyable breaks is a key part of the "chunking down" technique.
- 10 **FOCUS ON PROGRESS**
Focusing on progress rather than the result will help encourage motivation. If you get the process right, the results will follow.
- 11 **MAKE A 'BORING' SUBJECT INTERESTING**
It's very unlikely that you're going to enjoy all subjects, so for those you find the least interesting, try learning the subject in a different way to encourage enthusiasm.

Dear Parents of students in Year 11

At our recent parents' evening, many of you asked us how you could support your child in knowing what, when and how to revise for GCSE English.

We have created a revision and homework schedule to help you and your children with this and I am sharing it so you can support your child with their homework. (document attached to this email).

We have sent this revision programme and a range of supporting resources to your child this week via email. Every child has also received a paper copy of this document which should be kept in their pink homework book.

Your child's homework will now follow this document. Your child will complete three revision tasks per week. Every week one task is highlighted in yellow and this is the piece of homework that will be checked in class. Please remind your child to bring their pink homework book to their English lesson every Monday to be checked.

Your child can make sure they have covered all the content for the GCSE English Language and English Literature exams by completing all three tasks each week.

Many thanks for your continued support in helping your child achieve their very best in English.

Ms H Arnold

Head Of Department - English

