



23 February 2010

Dear Parent

## English GCSE – November 2010 examinations

Your son is currently studying a range of GCSE subjects, many of which will result in him sitting a number of examinations in May/June 2011. Typically, the examination period can be an extremely busy and challenging time for students, not least because of the number of exam papers associated with the range of subjects being studied by each student.


In order to ease the students' examination schedule in the summer 2011 series, current Year 10 students will sit their English GCSE exams in November 2010: provisional dates as advised by AQA are Monday 8 November 2010 for Paper 1 and Wednesday 10 November 2010 for Paper 2. In taking their English GCSE in November, students have the advantage of being able to wholly dedicate their study time to their English GCSE exam preparation, thereby maximising the opportunity to achieve the best grade possible in this very important qualification. Current Year 11 students sat their English GCSE exams in November 2009: 83% achieved grades A\* - C with 34% of students achieving grade A/A\*.

The English GCSE specification assesses for reading, writing and speaking and listening. The specification requires each student to complete four pieces of coursework, three speaking and listening tasks and two examination papers. Since the beginning of Year 10, your son has been undertaking the necessary coursework and speaking and listening tasks required in accordance with the English GCSE specification, with a view to completion of these aspects of the specification by summer 2010. Students currently undertaking the English Literature GCSE specification will continue to study this subject throughout Year 10 and sit their English Literature examination in the summer 2011 series.

As you will know, attainment of the English GCSE is a requirement of the majority of courses offered by Sixth Form and Further Education colleges; increasingly, the achievement of a good grade in the English GCSE is also a requirement of many employers in both the public and private sector. The results of the English GCSE November 2010 examinations will be released by AQA in January 2011, thus providing students with the opportunity to fulfil the English GCSE requirement of their chosen Further Education institution in advance of their application.

I hope that the above information clarifies the situation with regard to your son's English GCSE examinations. Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at the school or by email ([cleach1@rbksch.org](mailto:cleach1@rbksch.org)). Alternatively, your son's English teacher will be more than happy to discuss the situation with you at the Year 10 parents' evening on Thursday 25 February 2010.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Leach  
Head of English