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30<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **English GCSE**

I am writing to you following requests made by parents and carers for clarification of the GCSEs to be studied for examination in 2019.

All students study two GCSEs in English: English Literature GCSE and English Language GCSE. Both are assessed through examination only. There is no longer any coursework element or controlled assessment element.

#### English language

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative reading and writing (50%)

Paper 2 – Writer's viewpoints and perspectives (50%)

Alongside this, students are assessed for their speaking and listening skills; this does not contribute to the overall grade and instead is given a separate endorsement at the end of the course.

#### English Literature

Paper 1 – Shakespeare (Romeo & Juliet or Macbeth)

Teachers will inform students which Shakespeare text they will be studying.

19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel (A Christmas Carol) (40% of GCSE)

Paper 2 – Modern Texts (An Inspector Calls or Lord of the Flies) and poetry (power and conflict cluster)  
(60% of GCSE)

#### **Please note:**

There are no tiers in any of the exams (previously Higher and Foundation tiers were separate examinations). As such, all students are entered for the same exam.

The exams for English will take place in the summer of 2019.

Should you wish to look further at the new specifications they can be viewed at [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) – look for English language/English literature headings.

The Ripley Academy, Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ.

As you will be aware there is a new grading system in place for GCSEs as follows:

New Grading system	Old GCSE Grade
9	A**
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C+
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	U

If you wish to buy revision guides for your child, York Notes for GCSE and CGP are recommended. Please make sure that you purchase materials for the correct exam board and specification; check with the classroom teacher if you are unsure.

The BBC Bitesize website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education> and Spark notes <http://www.sparknotes.com/> are helpful for extra revision for your child.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards



Mrs A Turner

Head of Department for English