



June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 9 English Exam

I am writing to let you know about the upcoming Year 9 English exam on Wednesday 17th June. Students will be completing a version of the AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1.

This paper is based on reading and responding to a fiction extract, followed by a piece of descriptive or creative writing. We use this exam as a diagnostic assessment, which means it helps us identify each student's current strengths and the areas they need to develop before beginning their full GCSE studies in Year 10.

The exam will assess several important English skills, including:

- Reading comprehension – understanding what is happening in a text and being able to select important information
- Language analysis – explaining how writers use words and phrases to create meaning and effect
- Structure analysis – exploring how a writer organises ideas to interest the reader
- Evaluation – giving personal opinions about a text and supporting these with evidence
- Creative writing – writing imaginatively and using engaging vocabulary, sentence structures, and accurate punctuation

This is not about students already being at GCSE standard, but about helping us understand where they are now so we can best support their progress. It allows teachers to tailor learning and ensure students are fully prepared for future success.


For preparation, students could:

- Review class notes and completed practice tasks
- Revisit teacher feedback
- Practise reading short fiction extracts and answering comprehension questions
- Revise how writers use language and structure to create effects
- Practise planning and writing descriptive and narrative paragraphs using ambitious vocabulary and varied sentence structures

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- Access online support through resources such as the [AQA English Language Revision Resources](#)
- Watch revision videos from [Mr Bruff YouTube Channel](#) and [Mr Salles Teaches English](#), both of which provide helpful guidance on reading skills, creative writing, and exam technique

We also encourage students to read regularly at home, particularly fiction texts, as this helps improve vocabulary, understanding of writer's methods, and confidence in responding to unseen extracts.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Clare White
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