

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your son/daughter to Year 9 in English here at Wildern. Year 9 is the beginning of their Key Stage 4 GCSE studies, and over the course of the year your son/daughter will begin to learn and practise the skills that will underpin the English Language and Literature assessments at the end of Year 11. Here is an overview of what students will do this year:

Students will spend the Autumn term in Year 9 looking at 'Viewpoints and Perspectives' - a scheme of work based on the non-fiction element of English Language, before **producing and delivering a speech to the class on a topic of their choice: to fulfil the spoken language element of their English Language GCSE course.** More details of this will be provided following the October half term break.

In the Spring term, they will move on to study a Shakespeare play that will help them to develop an understanding of Shakespearean Language and Literature before their main GCSE study of 'Macbeth'. The play we will be looking at is 'Othello'. All students will be provided with a booklet containing the key scenes in the play that they will need for their lessons. **There may also be an opportunity this year to attend a school trip in the Spring of 2024 to see 'Othello' in performance in London, though spaces will be limited.** We will send further information on this in the Autumn term of Year 9.

If any students would like to purchase the whole 'Othello' play to pre-read or to extend their study, this is highly recommended. There are many cheap ways of buying texts: *World of Books* sells second hand books with free postage - <https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb>, as does [awesomebooks.com](https://www.awesomebooks.com). Amazon will sell new versions of the texts, but there are also second hand books available, just look for 'used' under the main advertised price.

In the Summer term, students will study the Power and Conflict poetry anthology, in preparation for this element of the Literature exam. Copies of the poetry anthologies that students need will be provided for them at the time of study.

The parent handbook for English contains full details of the curriculum that your son/daughter will be studying this year, as well as useful links to extra-curricular activities that may interest them and advice on how you can support them across this year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Collings
Assistant Director of Learning – English (Year 9)
Wildern School