

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to welcome your son/daughter to their Year 7 English studies here at Wildern. Over the course of the year, students will study a variety of literature and other texts that will develop their reading ability and comprehension which underpins the skills ultimately needed for GCSEs.

Autumn term

To introduce them to the department's expectations for reading, the class will study the novel *Twelve Minutes to Midnight*. This is an exciting detective gothic mystery novel. To facilitate their learning, we would kindly ask you to purchase a copy of *Twelve Minutes to Midnight* by Christopher Edge for the beginning of term. This is so that they can annotate chapters as we read them in lessons and refer to key passages.

Please be assured that your son/daughter's book does not have to be brand new and that students eligible for Pupil Premium will receive their copies through the school.

The book we would ask you to purchase **for September** is:

- *Twelve Minutes to Midnight* by Christopher Edge ISBN: 9780857630506 (taught across the Autumn Term)

There are many economical 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.co.uk will sell new versions of the texts, but there are also second hand books available, just look for 'used' under the main advertised price.

Spring and summer term

In the spring term, we will provide pupils with copies of the poems we are studying in our *Poetry Through Time* unit which focuses on the origins and evolution of poetry. Likewise, when we study Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in the summer term we will provide them with key passages and excerpts to read and annotate. However, you may wish to purchase the full edition of the text to read and enjoy at home with your son/daughter.

Self Study

In addition to class reading, Year 7 will be using a software package called Sparx Reader (<https://sparxreader.com>) for Self Study (homework) which we will set all students up to use at the beginning of this term. Every student's reading ability will be assessed and they will be allocated a reading level and given an appropriate book (accessible online through any digital device). They will earn points for the accuracy of their reading and completing the 30 minutes per week allocated reading time outside of lessons. More information on Sparx Reader will follow.

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.

Please get in touch with me or your son/daughter's English teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J. Hillier

Assistant Director of Learning for Year 7 and 8 English