



23rd April 2021

Dear students, parents and carers,

English Literature Additional Assessments May 2021

Further to my letter on the 3rd March 2021, I am writing to outline the logistics and thinking behind the additional assessments that students will be sitting in May.

Students today have been told their timetables for their GCSE English Literature additional assessment window, which will run from 4th – 28th May. As previously outlined, these assessments are being used by us to build the portfolio of evidence required by the exam boards to justify the grades that we will be entering for each student. The type and number of assessments, which are based on adapted model materials from exam boards to suit what we have taught our students, are being used by us for two key reasons:

1. To allow us to assess students on aspects on the course which we have taught, but have not yet had the opportunity to assess due to the impact of the last year on the school assessment calendar
2. To allow students the opportunity to demonstrate improvement in their knowledge of content or in the skills required for their subject from when they were previously assessed on them (in many cases these assessments were early in Y10 or some in Year 9 and we think it is fair to give students the chance to show that they have improved since then, to validate a better grade than they achieved previously).

In terms of the logistics of the additional assessments, I would like to draw your attention towards a couple of aspects:

- Students will attend all their lessons as normal. In their LF lessons, where they are not sitting an assessment, they will be studying and revising for their assessments
- For students who have Access Arrangements, or agreed SEA, these will still be provided for these assessments – Mr Downes, the Examinations Officer, will be in contact with you to let you know of where these will be, but you will follow the same structure for the timetable as all other students

As previously mentioned in my letter on 3rd March 2021, these assessments will form a significant part of the evidence we will be using for our students in making a judgment on their grades. Whilst we are able to and will, where appropriate, use work completed previously that hits certain conditions, such as being in the style of exam board questions and completed by the whole cohort in a way that staff can authenticate the student has done it, our view is that, in line with the exam board guidance, the more recent the work is produced, the more likely it is to be representative of the standard students are working at. This is especially the case given that we were forced to cancel our mock exams at the beginning of 2021 due to the national move to remote learning. Our full approach to how the grades will be decided by us is outlined in our Centre Policy, which is a comprehensive document that I hope to be able to share with you soon, as soon as our approach is approved by the exam board regulator, the JCQ. Once this happens,



I will write further to explain how assessments and other evidence will fit together to allow us to make a judgment on the grade that each student should be given.

I must emphasise here how important **it is for students to attend all these assessments**. We need them to provide the full range of evidence to give students a grade and without them, it will be very difficult for us to give students the grade they have worked for. As such, **missing these assessments could have a serious impact on the grades students receive** and it is therefore more important than ever that students attend and follow the normal processes for making us aware if they cannot through exceptional circumstance or severe illness, wherein we will run through the processes for getting them to produce the needed evidence of performance.

Whilst these assessments are just that, an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they know and can do to build evidence for their grade, I do still wish all students the best of luck. It has been a difficult couple of years with much uncertainty, but I hope that these assessments will provide students with a sense of something worked to and something earned. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Ms Costin, Mr Conant or the Examinations Team at exams@sydneyrussellschool.com

Kind regards,

Janis Davies

Principal