



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
AN INDEPENDENT ACADEMY TRUST

13 September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

The English Faculty are delighted to report continued excellence in this summer's GCSE and A-Level exams and intend to build on this success over this next academic year. To assist us with this, we warmly welcome two new members to the team alongside Miss Beckwith, who returns after her maternity leave.

However, the start to our scheduled teaching of GCSE English has been shifted by unprecedented news from Ofqual about the assessment of English from 2014 onwards. On Friday 30th August, Ofqual announced that they will, "stop speaking and listening assessments from counting towards final grades in GCSE English and English language," from 2014 onwards. The impact of this change is that the English assessment of Speaking and Listening, which your son/daughter has already achieved, will no longer count towards the overall GCSE grade awarded in August 2014.

The English course which your son/daughter undertook in 2012, is made up of three units of study:

- Unit 1 – Exam (Reading and Writing worth 40%)
- Unit 2 – Speaking & Listening (Controlled Assessment worth 20%)
- Unit 3 – Written assessment of reading & writing (Controlled Assessment worth 40%)

The change to the Examination process in 2014 will see the 20% for Speaking & Listening removed from the qualification. This will be reported separately to the overall English grade. The result of this is that the missing 20% will now be added to the exam, making it worth 60% of the overall grade.

In response to this and to secure the best outcome for each student, we feel we must take the opportunity to enter each student for their full GCSE English/English Language grade in the November 2013 examination series. Having completed assessments for both Unit 2 and Unit 3 already, it is essential we secure these assessment levels under the current examination system before the new changes come into effect in May 2014.

So, to summarise, your son/daughter has already completed assessments worth 60% and there is no change to the content already taught. We will simply be entering your son/daughter into the exam sooner than anticipated. The time allocated to teaching the examination content will be almost unchanged but will now be deployed this term rather than in April next year.

Once the grade for English is secured in November, our re-scheduled teaching plan will give us an excellent opportunity to focus on the teaching of the English Literature course which students will sit two exams for in summer 2014. There are currently no changes announced to this exam.

Your son/daughter will continue to receive high quality classroom teaching and targeted interventions to ensure they are fully prepared for the Unit 1 exam which will take place on Tuesday 5th November. The English Faculty will also be offering a number of revision sessions after school and in the October half term holiday. We also continue to run a 'drop-in' advice clinic every Monday lunch time in A50. Students can seek guidance and ask questions about the exam and indeed anything relating to the GCSE course.

I would be happy to discuss any questions or queries you may have in more detail and I thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Dunne
Faculty Leader English