

JED/EnglishSpokenAssmt/LH

23 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

## GCSE English Language Spoken Assessment

With Year 11 about to head into a very busy period, I am writing to ask for your continued support in helping us to achieve the maximum progress for your child. Whilst I wish them well in revising and sitting both their **English Language exam on Tuesday 29 November** and their **Literature exam on Tuesday 5 December**, I would be very grateful for your support in their **Spoken Language Assessment** which will be taking place at the end of this half term.

As you are aware, under the new GCSEs, your child is studying for linear exams taken at the end of Year 11. **This new GCSE syllabus requires all students to be assessed for one formal spoken presentation**, the result of which is published on a separate certificate to their GCSE grades which they will receive in the summer. Under the new guidance issued by Ofqual, this is a mandatory part of the new English Language GCSE and students will not be awarded their GCSE grades if they fail to take this spoken assessment; **therefore all students must complete this task**.

We have chosen to use the final week and a half of this half-term to complete this assessment as it is an ideal opportunity to complete this short assessment after their mock-exams, before we begin the final run-in to their main GCSE exams from January onwards. This timing will also afford them valuable practice in their formal speaking and question-response skills ahead of their Year 11 destinations interviews in January and interviews for any external post-16 providers or employers to whom they may be applying.

Part of the new exam rubric demands that "*candidates must listen to and respond appropriately to questions and feedback*" from an audience but to support our students and ease their nerves as best we can, we would remind them that:

- Each presentation only needs to last 5 minutes (the minimum required by the exam boards).
- They will be allowed to use a prompt card to help structure their presentation and remind themselves of key words or phrases to use.
- The presentations will be used to introduce students to the poems being assessed in the Literature exam in May (worth 20% of their final Literature grade).
- Their teacher has briefed them this week on the topic of their presentation and will provide a **minimum of 3 hours preparation time** (across home-learning and class-learning time) to research, plan and practise their presentation **from the end of mock-exam fortnight** (Friday 9 December onwards).

In addition to this official requirement for an audience, Ofqual now also require that schools submit video-recordings of this spoken assessment for external assessment by examiners, meaning that all the presentations must be filmed.

However, in line with both Ofqual's and Longsands' own policies, I would like to assure you and your child that these recordings will be stored securely within the school's password-protected, staff-only, intranet site and will only be viewed by the class teacher making the assessment and the external moderators in due course. A video camera will be at the back of the classroom in as discrete a manner as possible to ensure that we comply with this condition of the new-spec examination whilst managing the environment to support your child.

Whilst **all students' key focus over the next fortnight must be on revising for their mock exams**, I would be grateful for your support in ensuring that your child uses their time proactively **from Friday 9 December onwards wisely, to prepare for their spoken-assessment preparation**, and I offer them my full support during our after-school English clinics (Mondays and Thursdays until 4.00 pm) if they would like any extra advice or guidance.

Should you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher in the first instance.

With many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Diggory  
**Acting Head of English**