

JAH/tp

4 September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to Year 10 English! Your child is continuing their GCSE English journey at Wildern, and I want to give you a clear idea of what they'll be learning, what we expect them to do at home, and how we'll support them this year.

Your child will be following the AQA course for both English Language and English Literature. This means they will study a wide range of interesting topics that will help them get their GCSEs. They will read Shakespeare's play 'Macbeth' and a collection of 'Power and Conflict' poems. They will also look closely at fiction and non-fiction writing from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Our Year 10 lessons are designed to give your child all the skills and knowledge they need for their GCSE exams.

To help students with their studies, we have created a 'Self-Study' program for homework. Every student has received this online through Google Classroom, and if you prefer, paper copies are available if you ask for them.

Your child should spend up to one hour each week on this program. This weekly task will be done alongside other work their teacher sets and any extra revision they want to do to build on what they've learned in class.

For their lessons, we ask Year 10 students to have their own copies of the GCSE books we'll be studying this year: Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' and Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'. It's important for them to have their own copies so they can make notes in them, which will really help their self-study over the next two years.

For 'An Inspector Calls' the school has produced a course reader which includes a copy of the text with important questions and room for notes. This has a cost of £4. For this you will need to pay via ParentPay at the start of the school year.

For 'Macbeth', we don't insist on a specific version, but please make sure it's *not* a shortened (abridged) version.

The copy we suggest is:

- **Oxford School Shakespeare: Macbeth** (ISBN-10: 9780198324003)

If your child receives Pupil Premium funding, we will provide a free copy of 'Macbeth' and 'An Inspector Calls' for them.

On January 11th, we will have a visiting performance of Macbeth which we will ask parents to contribute too - this is a very effective way of bringing the text alive. More information will follow on this.

As the year goes on, please feel free to get in touch with the department if you have any questions or worries. We believe it's very important to keep in touch with students, teachers, and parents. We are here to help your child in every way we can.

Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to make the most of all the opportunities the English department offers to help them reach their full potential.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or your child's English teacher.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Hillier

Assistant Director of Learning – English (Year 9 and 10)

