

WS/CNA/2013

29 March 2017

Clifford Moor Road
Boston Spa
West Yorkshire
LS23 6RW

Dear Parent / Carer

At the start of year 10 we wrote to you to tell you that we were considering entering Y10 students for their GCSE English Language examination at the end of Year 10, leaving the Literature GCSE to complete in Year 11. We said then that decisions would be made in the best interests of each student and when we had sufficient data and information about the exam to do this.

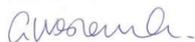
Year 10 students have now completed their Pre-public Exams and the papers show that they have been well prepared, with the results comparing favourably with the current Year 11, both now and at this time last year. The English team have discussed the early entry at length and believe that, although the students have made excellent progress this year, now is not the best time to enter these students and consequently we have withdrawn the entry. They will sit the exam next year, at the end of Year 11.

There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, we believe that students will benefit from another year of development and that the study of literature texts will only enhance their understanding of the unseen texts they have to answer on in the English Language exam. Secondly, we have very little information about the exam itself; we have no grade boundaries to work from and only very limited exemplar material from the exam board. Despite the excellent teaching and preparation they have received, we believe strongly that this is still too big a risk for us to take with our Year 10 students. We owe it to them to ensure they have the benefit of another year's study and what we, as teachers, can learn from this summer's entry in terms of preparing them for the exam in Year 11.

The work they have done in Year 10 is not wasted. They have covered the skills required for both Language papers and will continue to develop these skills, both through specific English Language content and the study of the English Literature texts. I believe absolutely that this extra time will ensure an even stronger set of results for all our students in the summer of 2018.

Please contact me or Mrs Viglianisi-Grainger (Learning Team Leader for English) at school on 01937 846636 if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Georgia Westerman
Deputy Headteacher



