



Friday 10th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to provide information about English homework at Wootton Upper School for the coming term.

Prior to Christmas, I wrote to you to outline our reasons for setting regular homework in English, and how this plays a vital role in building confidence, remembering key skills and knowledge, and ultimately ensuring good outcomes in Year 11.

We want all our pupils to achieve the best results possible for them; completing homework every week is one way you support them to do this.

English Homework – Key Information

For all year groups, English homework is set every **Monday**, starting on Monday 13th January. It is due the following Monday, so pupils always have 1 week to complete it.

We do not set English homework in the first and last week of each half term.

Some homework is set on Seneca. If your child has forgotten their password, they can ask their English teacher who can reset it.

Homework should take between 30–60 minutes each week, depending on the year and the task.

School Support

The library is open at lunchtime and after school where pupils can use computers, or ask for support if needed.

We run Year 11 revision sessions on a Wednesday lunchtime and a Thursday after school. The timetable of sessions is attached.

Spring Homework:

Year 9:

Pupils will be studying Romeo and Juliet this term. They have three activities to complete each week. These are:

1. Minimum of 15 minutes of personal reading (a text of their choice)
2. A Seneca quiz
3. Revision of key English terminology – the list is glued in their English book



Year 10:

Pupils are moving from GCSE English Literature, onto GCSE English Language (Paper 2) this half term. For homework, they are preparing for the Spoken Language Endorsement, which is part of their GCSE English Language qualification. They will be provided with a booklet with activities to work through, which builds to them preparing a **3-5 minutes speech to present to their class the week of 10th February**. You can support by helping them to decide on their topic, and allowing them to rehearse their speech in front of you. This is a formal GCSE assessment where pupils can achieve a pass, merit or distinction (or a fail if they don't complete it). The homework booklet is attached to this email for you.

After half term, pupils will be switching back to GCSE English Literature and begin studying the Poetry Anthology. Homework will be set weekly on Seneca based on the poems they have studied in class the previous week. Seneca quizzes are not a test; we expect students to find the answer using their book, or Google, if they don't know it. It is a learning opportunity, not a test, therefore we expect nearly all pupils to achieve 80% or higher each week.

Year 11:

Prior to Christmas, Year 11 lessons focused on revising the GCSE English Language Paper 1 exam, which is part of the mocks beginning on 27th January. Year 11 homework/revision for the next few weeks is to complete a full Paper 1. This is 1 hour and 45 minutes – they may choose to complete it in one go to replicate exam timings, or break it up into chunks. They will be given this paper on Monday 13th January, and it should be completed before the mock exams begin.

Pupils will also be completing a GCSE English Literature Paper 1 in the mock exams (Macbeth and A Christmas Carol). They should have their own copies of these texts so they can revise at home (but PDFs can be found online). It is essential they know the plots, characters, themes and are memorising key quotes.

If you have any questions, you can contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Your support is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bennett