

B I S H O P



R A M S E Y

Church of England School
Headteacher: Mr A J Wilcock MA (Cantab)

12th June 2015

Dear AS Literature Student and Parent /Carer

AS into A2 English Literature – Essential Information

Welcome back to A2 Literature! For the remainder of the term, we have a full programme of exciting lessons planned on the new units: **Gothic Literature for exam and Marxist readings of Larkin for coursework.** Please make sure that you attend, otherwise you will miss essential teaching for the course.

We have found that the key to success in A2 Literature is to **be organised with your notes, read in advance for lessons, be on time and attend all lessons, present homework and assessments on time for feedback and ask us questions – we're here to help.**

You will need to purchase texts from the essential reading list:

- Frankenstein - ISBN 978-0-393-92793-1 (Norton Critical Editions Second Edition)
- Dr Faustus - ISBN 0-582-81780-3 the A text (Pearson Longman)
- Wuthering Heights - ISBN 978-1-85326-001-8 (Wordsworth Classics)

In addition to these texts, you will need to purchase one more prose text of substantial literary merit from a list of options for your second coursework essay. This decision can be made in conjunction with your coursework teacher later this term. The school will provide you with the list of critical anthology essays and a range of poetry by Larkin.

We would advise you all to supplement your class tasks and reading with further reading (and viewing!) around the subject:

- Any Gothic fiction, cinema, art, etc.
- Commentaries, like York's Notes, on each of your set texts
- A primer on Gothic Fiction, like The Gothic Tradition by David Stevens (978-0-521-77732-2).

In addition to these, the recommended edition of Frankenstein has an extensive list of context essays, which will most certainly add value to your understanding of the text and the revived tradition of the Gothic in the Romantic era. We will join the Drama Department to watch the National Theatre's production of 'Frankenstein' streamed live to the school next term.



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To help you with your organisation, we have suggested that you keep your own folder for class notes and handouts, while you use the assessment folders issued for coursework and exam assessments with your feedback sheets. We would like these folders to be seen as 'school property' and taken home only under the direction of your teacher to review previous feedback and submit along with the next assignment.

You should expect written or oral feedback on your homework and classwork every fortnight, while there will be a more formal extended writing task assessment every half term. We will track your progress and let you know if we think that intervention and further support is necessary. If you find that an assignment is beyond you, please communicate this to the relevant class teacher so that we can help you. Parents/carers can also check progress by looking at the homework record sheets for each term and assessment folders.

As your exam is closed book this year, you should also keep a log of quotations for chapters and scenes in your texts and be familiar with key events. You are advised to read texts for both the exam and coursework at least three times: once for overall content, twice to gain an understanding of deeper meanings and thirdly for close reading of language and structural features.

It is very important that you meet deadlines and submission guidelines for coursework. For this term, these are listed on your homework record sheet. The AQA exam board have their own external deadlines that we have to meet. Therefore, our internal deadlines are always set to allow us to mark, moderate and prepare the submission on time. Students can expect comments back on one full rough draft and individual paragraphs in preparation for the final draft. Once the final draft is completed, the coursework will be marked for internal moderation and you will be informed of a band, but not an actual number/mark as this is subject to change either internally or externally. Coursework submission guidelines will be sent home before the end of term in advance of your first rough draft.

Students are welcome to use email for questions and when submitting assessments, but these should be presented in hard copy also as a backup and emails will be responded to within school hours.

We do hope that you gain a lot more from the course than an A Level (although these are useful); a life long love of reading, thinking and talking about great literature. If we can help in any further way, please do get in touch with us through email in the first instance.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Trafford
KS5 English Co-ordinator