

Dear Parent/Carer,

01 December 2023

I am writing to let you know about an important update to your son or daughter's English classes this academic year. We are really pleased with the hard work and amount of progress students have made in their recent English Language mocks and have decided to create more targeted groupings and lessons for students going forward. This is to ultimately support students to receive more tailored support for their ability level in English so that each student can make the best progress possible. Our main aims as a team are to support the literacy and development of all students- striving for the highest they can personally achieve.

As such, from Monday 04 December we will be rearranging students into English classes that will comprise of three different bands; two classes in 'aim high', two classes in 'boundary leapers' and two classes in our 'steps to success' band. We have an expert and committed team of staff in the English department who will be provided more targeted teaching during all of these lessons and the content remains the same for the whole year group.

As an English department, we have discussed each student's progress and looked at their performance across the past 18 months to help place them in the right class for more targeted teaching and learning. This term we are continuing with Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' and building exam skills for English Literature Paper 1. Whilst in January we will move on to revision of all the Language and Literature content in English with more tailored teaching of exam skills according to each group's ability.

Before January, the best way for you to support your son or daughter at home is to help them to recap the plot and events of 'A Christmas Carol', learn key quotations and mind-map key themes and characters in the novel according to exam questions. We hope that all our students will make the most of this opportunity to progress and perform to the best of their ability moving forwards.

If you have any questions, please do contact me via the St Marks email system.

Yours faithfully,

Miss K. Poulton
Head of English