

17<sup>th</sup> September 2015

VLU/LFB/Yr11iGCSE

Dear Parents/Carers

### **iGCSE English Examination on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

The last few summers have seen unpredictable grade boundary changes affecting outcomes for Year 11 English students both nationally and at The Leigh Academy. In particular, this has affected students entered for the Extended tier examination.

As a result, we have decided to enter all Year 11 students for the Core iGCSE English examination on **4<sup>th</sup> November 2015**. The pattern of grade boundary changes has neither affected the Core examination nor the November series of examinations in recent years, so we feel that this is the safest way to ensure that our students have the best chance of securing the crucial C grade that ensures progression to Post-16 courses, colleges and universities in the future.

Since a C grade is the maximum grade that can be achieved if students are entered for the Core examination, students will be offered a number of options to increase their highest grade for English in the summer examination series, assuming that they have secured a C grade on the Core route. Students will EITHER prepare for the Extended iGCSE examination (using the same written coursework entered for the Core course) alongside their preparations for GCSE English Literature, for which the highest grade that can be achieved is A\* OR bank their C grade for iGCSE English and place all their efforts into achieving their target or highest grade in GCSE English Literature (since both iGCSE English and GCSE English Literature have co-equivalence for all progression routes from 2016 onwards). If students have not achieved a C grade for iGCSE English in November 2015, they will be given the chance to re-take the Core examination in May 2016, alongside GCSE English Literature.

We feel that entering students for the November examination will provide insurance for Year 11 students, pace their examination preparation and offer the greatest flexibility and personalisation possible.

Most students completed all of their iGCSE coursework in Modules 5 and 6 of Year 10 but any student that did not do so will be supported in completing the coursework over the course of Module 1. Marks will be sent to the examination board on 15<sup>th</sup> October, so **the final deadline for submission of written coursework will be Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**. The plan for coursework completion will be shared with students affected in the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September.

All students will need to take their Speaking and Listening assessment during Module 1, which earns them 20% of their total mark for the course. This takes the form of a four minute talk on a topic of their own choosing, followed by four minutes of question and answer with the assessor. These assessments are conducted one-to-one, without an audience, but must be recorded and sent to the examination board. All Year 11 students should now be preparing their talk. The timetable for Speaking and Listening assessment dates will also be published in the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September.

If you have questions about this supportive measure for Year 11 students, please either contact your son or daughter's English teacher or attend the **Year 11 Information Evening on 24<sup>th</sup> September**, where I will be available to meet with you.

Yours faithfully



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