



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Wednesday 14 February 2018

GCSE English Language: Spoken Language Endorsement

Dear parent / carer,

Your son is fast approaching his GCSEs. He should be revising for all subjects, including his two GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. In lessons last week he began preparing for one final important component of the English Language course and he must pursue this independently, so I am writing to let you know what this is, how important it is and how to help him prepare for it: his Spoken Language Endorsement.

The Spoken Language Endorsement is a separate part of your son's GCSE that tests his speaking and listening skills. His grade – Distinction or Merit or Pass (or possibly Fail) – will be reported on his GCSE English Language certificate: for example, the certificate of a candidate achieving the highest grade in English Language plus in the Spoken Language Endorsement would read 9D. This certificate, alongside his mathematics certificate, is one that his prospective employers will wish to see for many, many years to come. Therefore, it will benefit him to achieve the highest grade that he is capable of getting in this important component of the course.

Your son is taking his Spoken Language Endorsement in the week commencing Monday 5 March, and his English Language teacher will notify him of the specific day and period when his assessment will take place. Assessments will be video recorded in line with exam board requirements. We hope his speaking and listening abilities are at a highpoint as he nears the end of Year 11 and reaches a climax of his secondary education.

The Spoken Language Endorsement requires candidates to deliver a formal speech and then answer questions on a topic of interest; the topic must be approved by his English Language teacher. The speech might be intended to persuade, inform or educate listeners. It must be engaging, informed and well-organized. He may use index cards in the exam to prompt him, but he will not be permitted to use PowerPoint or similar software.

Your son will be working independently to write the speech for his Spoken Language Endorsement before and during the February half term holiday. In the holiday and the following school week he should be rehearsing his speech and practising answering questions on his chosen topic. Therefore, it would be highly beneficial for him to deliver his speech to a friend or family member who can offer advice and challenge him by asking questions.

I wish your son every success. If he has questions, he should speak to his English Language teacher in the first instance. If you have queries, please email aw-clay-croome@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk or telephone the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Clay-Croome
Head of English
Whole-School Oracy and Literacy Coordinator

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