



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

5 November 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Following careful consideration, we have decided that the early entry sitting of GCSE English Literature will not be offered to students in Year 10.

To reach this decision, we have carefully analysed performance data from the previous two exam cohorts, had detailed discussions with students and English teaching staff, as well as closely looking at National entry trends and central advice and recommendations regarding examination entry patterns.

Although early entry provides an opportunity to reduce the number of terminal examinations at the end of Year 11, it is clear that sitting such an important examination, a year early, can come at a time when students are not entirely ready.

We have changed the delivery of the courses in English so that Language and Literature will be taught side by side. This allows for a transference of skills that support both courses. The English team feel strongly that skills developed through the English Language course, underpin the ability to construct comprehensive responses within the literature course. Historically, teaching Language and Literature discretely, in isolation, hasn't allowed for this.

We are confident that this decision is in the best interests of your child, both in terms of opportunity to maximise examination outcome as well as providing the maturation time to mentally cope with the magnitude of GCSE examination.

If you need further clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Finch
Deputy Headteacher

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