



A New Position On GCSE English Literature Year 10

Earlier in the week we outlined the School's stance on when we would enter Year 10 pupils for their final grade in GCSE English Literature.

We do have the option of entering pupils this summer and using the Teacher Assessment method made available by Welsh Government and the WJEC to award a full GCSE grade for English Literature without the end of year exam.

Initially we chose not to take this option, for the reasons I outlined: that we are only a short way through the course and have less evidence than we would like of pupils working at their potential grade; that the grades pupils have been awarded so far represent the more difficult elements of the course so might not reflect their ultimate potential; and that the English Language course can be taught very effectively through the English Literature texts, meaning that the courses can effectively be taught simultaneously next year.

While these points remain true, we have decided that a different approach to this unique situation might allow us to address all of these concerns while building in an effective insurance policy for Year 10 pupils.

In a change from our original position we will now be entering Year 10 pupils for full GCSE English Literature this year via the Teacher Assessment method. This means that all Year 10 pupils will get a full GCSE in English Literature, based on all of the information that teachers had up until the point where school closed. This will incorporate, but will not be based solely on the Unit 1 exam: there will be a significant element of professional judgement and classroom work brought to consideration.

We will continue to teach next year as outlined in my original email. The Year 11 Language course will be taught often using the Unit 2 English Literature texts as the basis for study. We will build and develop Language skills through and often using this Literature. As mentioned, this is the approach we are using with other year groups already.

This new stance will mean that next year, those pupils who have been awarded a grade that is perhaps lower than it might have been, or than they anticipated through Teacher Assessment will be in a position to resit the unit 2 exam. It also means that if pupils are facing a substantial exam load, we will be able to consider whether the resit exam is necessary. Similarly this situation will suit those pupils who wish to resit the Unit 1 exam at some stage. Though these are all decisions we will not be able to make until we are established in the new term back at school.

I feel that in hindsight this position will meet the needs of most learners, and considering the state of flux we are all in it is the one that is most future-proof. For the mean time, for reasons outlined above, the work being supplied by English teachers will maintain focus on

the Literature texts. They will be the method through which a large part of the language course is studied so a sound knowledge of them will be important.

As always, that's for your patience as we work through this unique situation.

Cofion Cynnes

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