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5 September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I'd like to welcome your child to Year 9 English at Wildern. This year is the start of their GCSE studies (Key Stage 4), and they will begin to learn and practice the important skills needed for their English Language and Literature exams at the end of Year 11.

Here's a quick look at what your child will study this year:

- **Autumn Term:** Your child will focus on 'Viewpoints and Perspectives'. This part of the course is all about non-fiction writing in English Language. They will then prepare and give a speech to the class on a topic they choose. This speech is a key part of their English Language GCSE. We'll give you more details about this after the October half-term break.
- **Spring Term:** Students will move on to study a play by Shakespeare. This will help them understand Shakespeare's language and writing style before they start their main GCSE study of 'Macbeth'. The play we'll be looking at is 'Othello'. All students will get a booklet with the most important scenes they need for their lessons. However, if your child wants to buy the full 'Othello' play to read ahead or study more deeply, we highly recommend it. You can often find cheap copies of books online. Websites like World of Books (<https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb>) and awesomebooks.com sell second-hand books with free postage. Amazon also sells new versions, and you can often find 'used' copies there too, usually for a lower price.
- **Summer Term:** Your child will study all the poems from the GCSE AQA 'Power and Conflict' poetry book. This will prepare them for this section of the GCSE Literature exam. We will provide copies of the poetry books they need when they start studying them.

Our English parent handbook, available on the school website, has full details about what your child will be studying this year. It also has useful links to extra activities they might enjoy and advice on how you can support them throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, or, you can speak to your child's English teacher first.

Sincerely,

Mr J Hillier Assistant Director of Learning – English (Year 9 and 10)

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Wildern School

