

10 July 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to welcome your child to their Year 7 English studies here at Wildern. Throughout the year, students will explore various texts. This will help them develop a love for reading and build the skills needed to understand and form their own views on novels, poetry, and non-fiction.

**Autumn Term**

To begin, students will learn about the English department's approach to reading through the novel **The Graveyard Book**. This is an exciting detective gothic mystery novel. To support their learning, we kindly ask that you purchase a copy of **The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman** for the start of term. This will allow them to make notes in chapters during lessons and easily find important parts.

Please be assured that the book does not need to be brand new. Furthermore, students who qualify for Pupil Premium will receive their copies directly from the school.

There are many affordable ways to buy books:

* **World of Books** sells second-hand books with free postage:<https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb>
* **awesomebooks.com** also offers second-hand books.
* **Amazon.co.uk** sells new versions of texts, but you can also find second-hand options by looking for "used" under the main advertised price.

**Spring and Summer Term**

In the spring term, we will provide students with copies of the poems for our **Poetry Through Time** unit, which explores how poetry began and changed. Similarly, when we study Shakespeare’s **The Tempest** in the summer term, we will provide important passages and sections for reading and annotation. However, you might consider buying the complete book for your child to read and enjoy at home.

The English parent handbook contains full details of what your child will be studying this year. It also includes helpful links to extra activities that may interest them and guidance on how you can support them this year.

Please contact me or your child’s English teacher if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

**Miss R. Mullen**

Assistant Director of Learning for Year 7 and 8 English