

BRIDGING WORK

Tasks – please complete A and B

A We wish to know your thoughts about the subject and get to know you better. Please complete ONE of the following tasks – typed if possible.

We would like you to write a piece of journalistic writing, on either of the following topics:

1 The value of English Literature

What is your favourite book? Why? Would it be considered 'worthy' of A Level study? Explain your thoughts about what makes some literature worthy of study and others not. What are your views and why?

2 Why do we still study Shakespeare?

The Bard – he's on the curriculum from primary to post-16. Why? Should we continue to keep Shakespeare at the forefront of English teaching in the UK? Tell us what you think.

B Read your set texts *Othello* (perhaps watch a play or film of this too) and *Wuthering Heights*.

Set Texts

It is good practice to annotate and revise from your set texts. We therefore recommend you purchase your own copies of these – school copies will need to remain clean and free from annotation. Clean copies will be provided for your examinations.

In your first year we will be studying Love Through the Ages in Shakespeare's *Othello*, Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* and post-1900 poetry (anthology provided by the examination board).

Othello

Please get the Oxford School Cambridge Fourth Edition (ISBN 978-3068014820).

This tragedy tells the story of Othello, a black general in the Venetian army. His deep love for his wife Desdemona, and his preference for his newly promoted lieutenant Cassio, lead him to becoming the victim of his trusted but ruthless ensign Iago. He brings destruction to the lives of the central characters simply through the power of his words. The play endures because of its universal themes of racism, love, jealousy, betrayal, revenge and repentance.

Wuthering Heights

Wordsworth Classics edition (ISBN 978-1-85326-001-8)

The narrative develops the passionate but ultimately doomed love of Heathcliff and Cathy and the effects of this on themselves, the wider community in rural Yorkshire and finally on their children. This gothic text explores jealousy, love, revenge and passion.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

