NEWSLETTER

SMCA ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

St. Mary's Catholic Academy

YEAR 11: PARENT UPDATE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ENGLISH THIS TERM?

We hope that you had a wonderful summer holiday and that you were able to enjoy the sunshine with friends and family. Now that staff and students have settled into the new school year, we wanted to give you an update on what is happening in English over the upcoming weeks. Take a look at what your child is studying, extra-curricular opportunities and how you can support them on their GCSE English Language and Literature journey.

Mock Exams 1:

English Language Paper 1 – Reading (Section A) Q1 - 4 - Wednesday 4th November (A)

English Literature Paper 2 – Power and Conflict poetry - Tuesday 20th October (B)

HWK will be set to help you to revise

CURRENT MODULE:

ENGLISH LITERATURE: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *ROMEO AND JULIET*

Since September, students have been studying their Shakespeare text – Romeo and Juliet. All students read/watched the play in Year 9, exploring plot, character and context. We are now analysing the play in greater depth and learning how to approach exam questions. Students will be developing their language analysis skills and practising extended writing, building their confidence in essay writing.

KEY VOCABULARY

- Elizabethan
- Fate
- Patriarchy
- Unrequited
- Melancholy
- Soliloquy

DIGITAL THEATRE+

Students have access to hundreds of theatre performance recordings, including romeo and juliet. all they need is their school email to log in.

UPCOMING

OCTOBER 21

Julius Caesar RSC Performance

W/C NOVEMBER 16

Romeo and Juliet Summative Assessment

NEXT MODULE: W/C NOVEMBER 16

Students will move on to study for English Language: Paper 2 - *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives*. This paper focuses on non-fiction texts eg articles, speeches, etc and functuational writing. To help prepare students for this module, we kindly ask you to encourage them to read and watch the news, stay tuned into current issues and to engage in discussions with them about topical issues. Previous exam topics include: technology usage, the environment, sport, animal welfare, social experiences and events, education.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2026
17:30 - 19:30

Come and visit the English Department in the LRC to have a look at A-Level Literature and Language!