

HME/GCSEEngCoreText/LH
July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

New-specification GCSE English core texts purchase advice

As part of the English GCSEs that your son/daughter will begin studying in September, he/she will be required to study some core texts for examination in summer 2019. Under the latest GCSE specifications, all English exams will be 'closed book', meaning that pupils will not be allowed to take a copy of the text in with them. Instead, they will have to rely on their memory of key extracts and quotations to secure the highest levels of attainment. This places a very high emphasis on the students' familiarity with the text both within class and beyond as individual readers.

As all future Year 10 students will be studying both the English Language and English Literature from September onwards, we are asking that they have a personal copy of each of their core texts in preparation for their English lessons and future GCSE exams: a 19th Century fiction text, a Shakespeare play and a modern 20th Century text. **We strongly believe that having a personal copy of the text will allow pupils to develop best practice in highlighting and annotating key quotations, thus maximising their progress in both the mock exams and the final GCSE exams this academic year.** In addition, having their own copy of the core texts will allow them to pre-read the texts to maximise their learning experience within lessons.

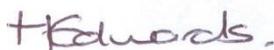
As we commence the first year of KS4 we are in a position to offer you the unique opportunity to purchase all 3 of the most pupil-friendly editions in a **special-priced bundle for only £16**. Considering that the average RRP of each text is nearly £7, we think this represents excellent value for money and will prove invaluable towards aiding their studies by enabling them to annotate in their own editions as they build up their skills and knowledge. The first text to be studied this term is the 19th Century text which your son/daughter will receive automatically during their lessons throughout KS4; subsequent texts will be issued automatically by his/her class teacher at the appropriate time during the school year, with a confirmation email sent out to parents.

If your son/daughter is eligible for Pupil Premium funding, you may be able to access financial support for this purchase. Pupil Premium funding is available for students who have been eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years, are looked after or have parents in the armed forces. Further advice on eligibility for Pupil Premium funding is available on our website. If you are not eligible for Pupil Premium but are currently experiencing financial hardship, the Academy *may* be able to support you. If you wish to apply for either Pupil Premium or discuss current financial hardship, please write to or email Mrs Fiona Smith (fsmith@longsands.cambs.sch.uk).

ParentPay is now open for payments. If you have any difficulty accessing your ParentPay account, please contact the Finance Department on 01480 223336/37. **In order to process orders for these core texts in sufficient time, I would ask you to complete the payment for £16 on ParentPay by 9.00 am Monday, 18 September at the latest.** Unfortunately we will not be able to accept any orders after this time.

If you have any queries regarding the new GCSE specifications or the purchasing of texts, please do not hesitate to contact your child's current English teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Edwards
Head of English