



23rd November 2022

Dear Parent/Carers,

In January 2023, the students will be starting the next text in their GCSE course – they will be studying the 19th Century novella, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

As previously outlined, the exams are closed book and students are required to know these set texts in great depth and learn quotations off by heart for key characters and themes. In order to help with this, it is advised that students highlight and annotate the text as they are studied in class so that key ideas are easily identifiable when revising. In order to do this, students will need to obtain their own copies of the text.

There is no requirement to buy these books, and the English Department upload PDF copies to MS Teams for any student who does not purchase one. However, the students will not be able to highlight/annotate these copies as easily. There is no specific edition which is required for any text the students do purchase.

It may also be a worthwhile activity for the students to take a little time over the Christmas period to become familiar with *A Christmas Carol*, in order to prepare themselves for their English work in January. This could be watching one of the many film versions, which will familiarise them with the plot and characters, and/or beginning to read the text.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact via email: info@gms.bucks.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Ms R Timon
Head of English