



## **ENGLISH - Five Revision Tips for GCSE and A Level English Students**

With one month of the school year already completed, focus and attention will soon turn to the examination seasons both this winter and in the Summer Term. Effective revision is key to success in GCSE and A Level English exams, however many students struggle to understand how or where the best place to start might be. With that in mind, here are five of the best tips to help students prepare efficiently and confidently throughout the coming months.

1. **Understand the Exam Format:** Students that can familiarise themselves with the structure of the exam papers, including the types of questions and the marking criteria, will have an advantage in knowing what to expect in terms of both content and time management.
2. **Create a Revision Timetable:** More advice will come out regarding this in due course, however there is never a better time than the present to start organising the time you have. Plan your revision schedule to cover all topics systematically and avoid last-minute cramming, which will only heighten feelings of anxiety around the exams.
3. **Practice Past Papers:** Every examination board contains a raft of previous papers freely available to download. Through accessing and attempting previous exam papers, specifically in timed conditions, your child will get a feel for the questions and improve their time management for answering questions in the process.
4. **Focus on Key Themes and Characters:** As well as re-reading the text and watching productions of the texts for Literature exams, students would do well to concentrate some time in their revision on understanding major themes, character development, context (for A Christmas Carol and the Poetry Anthology specifically) and how these manifest into examination questions (for this see point 3).
5. **Use Quotations Effectively:** It is my firm belief that the strength of a student's response can be predominantly established by the way in which they select, apply and analyse quotations. By learning key quotes and practicing integrating them into answers to support arguments, your child will put themselves in great stead for both the trial examinations and the summer entries.

For any further help or advice, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's subject teacher or the Subject Leader of English, Mr. McGuigan, via the school's email address.