Dear parents, carers and Y10 students,

The English Department at Samuel Whitbread is really excited about welcoming you back to school and starting the GCSE course in September. I hope in this letter we can help answer some of the questions you may want to ask about the new school year.

Year 10 is the start of your English GCSE course. The end of the course culminates in 4 exams – two for English Language and two for English Literature.  
• Over the course of the year we will be studying the Language papers through the Literature texts. There are clear links between Literature and Language and we want you to understand how transferable the skills are across the papers. Therefore, as we study each text we will practise using the skills that are needed to do well in both Literature and Language.  
- Year 10 begins with A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (Literature Paper 1). Through this text we explore ideas about the plot, characters and setting, as well as wider themes and the background of Dickens himself.  
• Following on from that is Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare (Literature Paper 1). During our time studying Romeo and Juliet, in the same format as A Christmas Carol, there will be opportunities to watch film and theatre versions of the play.  
• By the end of Year 10 you will also have studied a range of poetry where we explore themes and connections between poems (Literature Paper 2) and completed the Speaking and Listening element of English.  
• The final Literature text you will study will be An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley (Literature Paper 2) but this will begin September in Year 11.  
• The school will provide copies of all of these Literature texts for you to access during your lessons. However, many of our students find it really useful having their own copy in which to make notes and annotations. Should you wish to purchase your own copies there is a list of all of these texts and recommended editions in the English section of the school website

We hope you are looking forward to starting this next exciting part of your Samuel Whitbread experience. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact:

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