



# St Martin's School

**Ysgol Martin Sant**

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Headteacher/Prifathro: Mr L Jarvis

16 March 2017

Dear parent(s)/guardian,

Further to the decision by the school to support the full entry of your child for their GCSE English language examination this summer. I write to outline the purpose of this and how you will be able to guide your child during the run up to this examination. As this is a new examination, we believe that it will benefit your child by experiencing this examination in year 10.

Despite our aim for all students to pass this qualification during this period we understand that they may not always achieve as highly as they might in year 11. Should his be the case we will fund another attempt at this in November. There will be one final opportunity to sit this examination either to increase upon the grade they have achieved or to ensure they pass this qualification.

By approaching this examination in this manner whilst costly for the school it does ensure that your child will have every opportunity to become familiar with the process, papers and expectations and excel. As this is marked externally we will also receive a set of reliable data following each entry which we will use to inform further advances in our teaching and learning and provide necessary support to your child as we progress through year 10 and 11.

With the changes to the English language examination process, pupils will now all sit a single tier paper and this examination is traditionally sat at the end of Year 11. Pupils no longer complete written coursework for English and the only controlled internal assessment that they complete is the unit 1 speaking and listening. This consists of two tasks: an individual presentation and a group discussion which pupils will complete next week as a part of this.

As a school we wish to reinforce that whilst we hope that pupils will achieve their target grades if this is not the outcome they will then be re-entered. We believe that additional opportunities will be beneficial to the students and help to minimise stress and provide more practice.

If we opt not to do enter them this summer we will only be permitted to enter them once in July of year 11.

If you wish to support your child in preparing for the examination then you will find the following useful:

- Advising them to spend time undertaking wider reading and collating a bank of 'ambitious' and 'varied' adjectives and adverbs which they can then use in their writing
- Help them to learn a bank of ten spellings a week, pupils can create their own quizzes online to help them with this
- Ensure they spend time practising writing using varied sentence patterns and a range of punctuation
- Ensure they develop an awareness of different question types that appear on the reading paper and how to approach different styles of writing (speeches, letters, leaflets, articles, reports)
- Encouraging them to revise using sample assessment papers found on the WJEC website and HWB

I hope you find this useful, if you have any further queries then please contact the school and I will be happy to advise you further.

Kind regards,

Mrs Claire Manson

**Learning Together, Achieving Forever**    **Dysgu ynghyd, cyflawni o hyd**

