

17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: *The Sign of Four*: preparatory reading of the novel

As your son enters into Year 11 they will be aware of the value of a GCSE in English.

For English Literature, knowledge of the set texts is critical to the success of any students. This means that students should be reading and re-reading the texts as part of their revision routine.

Examination reports are clear in their message that the students who do well are those who have a clear overview of the texts and are closely familiar with them – enabling them to tackle any question type with confidence.

The texts are covered in lessons alongside the teaching of key skills and exam technique. It is then the responsibility of the student to use revision time to read the texts carefully in their own time to foster this familiarity. *An effective Year 11 student arrives to lessons already knowing what happens across the entire text.*

In light of this, each student will receive a copy of ***The Sign of Four* by Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle.**

Our expectation is that students read the novel in preparation for September – meaning that they are able to fully grasp the skills and analysis taught in the class room. The copies sent are printed A4 paper copies. It is recommended that these are also used for annotation and school use and, where possible, students buy their own copies to support their reading and re-reading outside of school hours.

With changes and reform to GCSE subjects it is not always easy to know what revision should look like. For English Literature, time spent reading the texts is excellent use of revision time – if not the only method of revising.

Further support will follow so that, as a parent, you can be sure that your son is using revision time effectively. To begin with, reading and re-reading the set texts are essential in ensuring your son has a strong foundation to build from in his examinations.

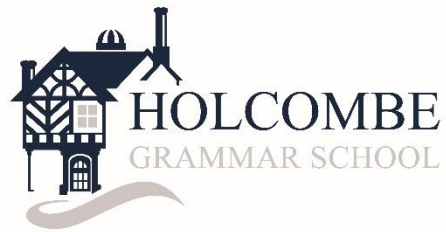
The total range of set texts for GCSE Literature study are:

- **Macbeth (William Shakespeare)**
- **The Sign of Four (Arthur Conan Doyle)**
- **Lord of the Flies (William Golding)**
- **Power and Conflict Poetry (AQA Anthology)**

Thank you for supporting your son in reading the text and we hope they enjoy this excellent novel.

Yours sincerely

Ms I Tomris



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