

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 10 students,

I am writing to you with information about the Spoken Language element of the English Language GCSE course which Year 10 students are about to begin and will complete before the end of this academic year.

The preparation and assessment of Spoken Language is a compulsory requirement of the course of study. It will appear on all students' certificates as a separately reported grade, alongside the overall exam grade issued.

Performance will be assessed against common criteria issued by all exam boards. The criteria will address the following assessment objectives:

- AO7 – demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting.
- AO8 – listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including questions and feedback to presentations.
- AO9 – use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.

Candidates must undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic of their choice, agreed in advance with their teacher. All students will present their speeches to their class, and there is a short question time at the end.

Being able to present is an important part of the English curriculum, as well as a life skill, and so this is an excellent opportunity for students to develop this skillset. Parents and carers can make a real difference by supporting students as they prepare; encouraging practice, listening to rehearsals, and offering simple feedback can help build confidence and improve performance.

Where there is history of persistent anxiety or a medical reason already known to the school why the student may not be able to complete the assessment in the classroom, alternative provisions may be arranged with their English teacher. A candidate who is unable to undertake his/her presentation because of persistent absence (whether through ill health or any other reason) will not qualify for special consideration and will receive a 'Not Classified' result for the Spoken Language endorsement.

If you have any further queries, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Silvester

Head of English