

## **English GCSE Retakes – also called Resits**

- In KS5, The English and Media Studies Department offer a GCSE retake course with a strong focus on English Language exam skills and functional English. Students are given the opportunity to retake in November and, if unsuccessful, again in June and are offered support to help them achieve grade 4 or above.
- We follow the Sixth Form 996 principle to support the development of students' independence at A Level.
- We continue to use Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time with the Sixth Form in order to teach them critical and self-evaluation skills.
- Regular assessment, both in class and through independent study, help to ensure that students have a secure knowledge of the course content and examination requirements.
- As previous HTS students will have studied AQA English Language in year 11, we continue to use this exam board in Year 12 and follow the same English Language teaching methods to maintain success for these Retake/Resit exams using skills from the year before.

## **What to expect from the English GCSE Retakes – also called Resits**

At HTS, we have chosen to use AQA for those students that still need to gain their pass (a Grade 4 minimum) at English GCSE. It is important to note that the students will be required to show us proof of a successfully completed Spoken Language Endorsement which will be in the form of a Pass, Merit or Distinction in this element. If this has not been completed before the course, we will need to complete a Spoken Language exam during the course which will be recorded and sent to the exam board for moderation.

The following information has been taken from the AQA website:

### **Why choose AQA for GCSE English Language**

#### **A specification designed for you and your students**

Our assessments have been designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring, as far as possible, that the assessment and texts are accessible to the full range of students.

The specification will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

### **Dynamic and engaging content**

The specification offers the attraction of two equally-balanced papers, relating reading sources to the topic and theme of writing tasks. The reading sources act as stimulus for writing tasks, providing students with a clear route through each paper.

Each paper has a distinct identity to better support high quality provision and engaging teaching and learning. Paper 1, *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing*, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Paper 2, *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives*, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time.

Our approach to spoken language (previously speaking and listening) will emphasise the importance of the wider benefits that speaking and listening skills have for students. The endorsed unit will draw on good practice to suggest how engaging formative tasks can lead to a single summative assessment.

### **Skills-based approach**

The specification offers a skills-based approach to the study of English Language in an untiered context. Questions are designed to take students on an assessment journey through lower tariff tasks to more extended responses.

***More information about the GCSE Retakes can be found here on the AQA website:***

**[AQA | English | GCSE | GCSE English Language](#)**