



## Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: T J Swain, M A

Tuesday 28 March 2017

### GCSE English Language Spoken Language Endorsement

Dear parent / carer,

Your son is now fast approaching his GCSEs. He should be revising for all his subjects, including his two GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. There is one final important component of your son's English Language course that he needs to prepare for, and I am writing so that you know what this is, how important it is and how to help him prepare for it: his Spoken Language Endorsement.

Formerly known as Speaking and Listening, the Spoken Language Endorsement is a separate part of your son's GCSE. His grade, which will be either Distinction, Merit, Pass (or Fail), will be reported on his GCSE English Language certificate – this, alongside his mathematics certificate, is one that his prospective employers will wish to see for many, many years to come. Therefore, it will benefit him to achieve the highest grade he is capable of getting in this important component of the course.

Your son is taking his Spoken Language Endorsement in the first week after the Easter holiday, and his English teacher will notify him of the specific period during which his speaking assessment will take place. As a school, we are hopeful that his speaking and listening abilities are at a highpoint as he reaches a climax of his secondary education, nearing the end of Year 11.

The Spoken Language Endorsement requires candidates to deliver a formal speech and then answer questions on a topic of interest; the topic must be agreed with his English teacher. The speech could be given for any number of reasons, for instance intended to persuade, inform or educate listeners. It must be engaging, informed and well-organized.

Your son will be working independently to write the speech for his Spoken Language Endorsement in the lead to and during the Easter break. In the holidays he should be rehearsing his speech and practising answering questions on his chosen topic. Therefore, it would be beneficial for him to deliver his speech to a friend or family member who can offer advice and challenge him by asking questions.

I wish your son every success. If he has any questions, he should speak to his English teacher in the first instance. If you have any queries, you may contact me by emailing [aw-clay-croome@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:aw-clay-croome@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk) or telephoning the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Clay-Croome  
Head of English  
Whole-School Literacy Coordinator

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