

Hawkey Hall High School

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Headteacher: Mr P McKendrick



Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents/Guardian,

In English, your son/daughter will be studying towards two separate GCSEs in years 10 and 11– English Language and English Literature. As part of this course, they are required to study a Shakespeare play, a modern play and a novel. Because of the large amount of content that students need to cover, we feel it would be really beneficial if students had their own copy of the texts. This will enable them to annotate them in lessons and for homework and it will be an excellent resource for revision.

It will be a great help to your son/daughter if you purchase a copy of the texts for them. They are available in most book shops and also online from the likes of Amazon. You will also find used copies available to order online, which can dramatically reduce the cost.

The texts we recommend are:

Blood Brothers by Willy Russell—Methuen Student Edition ISBN 978-0413695109. This is around £9-10 pounds as a new copy, depending on where you source it from.

Please note: there is another version of this play with an entirely different ending so it is important that you purchase the one we have recommended.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens- Wordsworth Classics ISBN 978-1840227567. Prices start from around £2.50 for a new copy.

We also get a lot of parents enquiring about additional revision resources for these texts so if you would like to purchase optional text guides for your son/daughter, we recommend the following:

Blood Brothers CGP Text Guide– Grade 9-1

A Christmas Carol CGP Text Guide– Grade 9-1.

These text guides cost around £6-7 pounds each.

Students will begin studying A Christmas Carol after October half term and Blood Brothers after the Christmas holidays.

Thank you for your support with this.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs V. Crawford
Head of English



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