



17 March 2026

Dear Families

## GCSE English Literature Set Text – A Christmas Carol

In years 10 and 11, your child will be studying a number of set texts for their English Literature examinations. In preparation for this, after the Easter holidays in year 9, we will be following a unit of work designed to prepare students for studying A Christmas Carol at GCSE.

This unit will include reading and some annotating of the text, as well as looking its historical and social context. We intend for this to give students a good understanding of the novel and its main themes, as well as the chance to explore some of the literary methods used by Dickens. We will then revisit the topic in years 10 and 11, when we will concentrate more on how to successfully write about the text in examination conditions.

The English faculty at Sackville is following the AQA syllabus which requires students to have a detailed and thorough understanding of several texts. Students will not receive a copy of these books in the exam and so it is important for them to make the best use of them during their study and revision. With their own copy, students may use highlighter pens, underline and write notes in the margin, all of which prove extremely helpful in aiding understanding and analysis.

As you can appreciate, once a copy has been marked in this way it cannot be used by another student. Consequently, we are asking you to purchase the texts that your child is studying. Therefore, please could you purchase a copy of A Christmas Carol in time for the start of the summer term on Monday 13 April 2026.

A note of the text, the suggested edition and the recommended retail price is below. Texts are available from Amazon, or your local bookshop will also be able to order for you. Copy and pasting the ISBN number (see table below) into the site will take you directly to the correct book.

<b>A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens</b>	Scholastic classic edition (blue and white cover)	ISBN: 978-1-407143-64-4	RRP: £5.99
--	---	-------------------------	---------------

Texts can often be found for less than the recommended retail price. Second hand copies are also widely available and perfectly acceptable. We keep a small stock of second hand, previously annotated copies at school on a first-come-first-served basis in case of need.

We never want cost to be a barrier preventing members of our Sackville Community achieving their best so we will fund this product for any student entitled to Pupil Premium funding. Please get in touch with Miss Barnes ([kbarnes@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:kbarnes@sackvilleschool.org.uk)) if you **do not** wish us to do this.

If you think cost is an issue and you are not eligible for this, please contact your community for support.



We thank you for your support with your child's GCSE. If you have any further queries, please contact either myself - [jmaunder@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:jmaunder@sackvilleschool.org.uk), or the Curriculum Team Leader of English, Mrs J Grimes - [jgrimes@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:jgrimes@sackvilleschool.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mr James Maunder  
**Leader of Year 9 English**