



28 September 2026

Dear Families

English Language

With the English Language course over halfway complete at this point, I am writing to you in order to draw some attention to some key aspects of the upcoming academic year. In particular, I am writing to you primarily to take an opportunity to emphasise the importance of the English Language NEA (non-examined assessment; coursework).

The final grades for English Language students are determined by two exam papers and one NEA. This one NEA consists of two different pieces: one that is a study of a language area of the student's choice; the second, a piece of creative writing with commentary inspired by a chosen style model. The NEA is worth 20% of the overall A Level, and is an opportunity for students to carefully plan and create an excellent piece of work that can bolster their grade in advance of the exams. It is also the part of the course that offers the most opportunity for independent investigation.

Students in Year 13 are expected to complete – at a minimum – one week of independent study for every hour of teaching that they have within a week. Whilst there will be work provided by their teachers to fill some of this gap, there will also be time factored in, which should allow students to progress in their NEA over time. In this way, students should be progressing with their NEA week by week rather than it becoming a significant workload at one time.

The key deadlines for students are as follows:

Friday 16 October 2026 - First draft Original Writing

Friday 11 December 2026 - First draft Language in Action

Friday 22 January 2027 - Original Writing deadline

Friday 19 March 2027 - Language in Action deadline

Could I please encourage you to discuss the projects with them and make sure that they are aware of the importance of completing this to a high standard. Many students have found that this becomes something that they can take great pride in, and many have used them at university and job interviews to demonstrate a range of skills.

I look forward to speaking with you at Parents' Evening later this year, but please do let me know if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mr Liam Byrne

Deputy Head of English Language