Tomlinscote School

1st October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Year 11 English Masterclass

On Wednesday 7th October 2026, Ms Doherty will be delivering two Year 11 English Masterclasses during Period 2 and Period 3.

Students will attend one 50-minute session during their normal English lesson.

During the masterclass, Ms Doherty will focus on **Question 5 of English Language Paper 1**, the creative writing task, which is worth **40 marks**. Success in this question can have a significant impact on a student's overall grade.

Ms Doherty and I have jointly planned both the masterclass and the follow-up lesson, which will be delivered by the students' usual English teachers.

Across the two lessons, we will focus on five key writing techniques that we believe can significantly improve the quality of every student's response:

- Stacking alliterative adjectives
- Improving verb choices
- Using extended similes effectively
- Creating lists through the use of colons and semicolons
- Creating a chorus effect through the use of short sentences and short paragraphs

During the masterclass, students will explore three of these techniques. The remaining two techniques will then be taught and practised in the subsequent English lesson with their usual class teacher.

Following these lessons, students will be given exemplar questions and past paper tasks to help them practise and apply the skills they have learnt. The most effective way to prepare for this question is through regular practice, and we will strongly encourage students to complete as many creative writing tasks as possible before the **Year 11 English Language Mock Examination on 4th November 2026**. Any completed responses should be given to their English teacher for feedback.

Once the masterclass and follow-up lessons have taken place, all materials will be uploaded to the Year 11 Google Classroom. This will allow students to revisit the content independently and, if they wish, enable parents and carers to support them in further developing their extended writing skills.

Delivering a masterclass in the hall also provides students with an experience that more closely mirrors the learning environment they may encounter in further education, where larger lecture-style sessions are common. As such, we expect students' conduct, engagement and learning behaviours to be exemplary throughout the session.

This style of masterclass has been used successfully in other schools within the Trust. Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting that they enjoyed being taught in a different way and appreciated the opportunity to learn in a more mature academic environment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Matthew Venton
Principal