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Dear Year 10 Parent/Carer

Ongoing School Closure

You will, no doubt, have seen the recent government directives concerning the phased reopening of schools. The clear indication is that secondary schools will not open in any recognisable form until September, at the earliest. We appreciate that this news may have caused a great deal of disappointment - we are all anxious to welcome your youngsters back into our vibrant classrooms, as this is where the best learning can take place.

While a full-time return with timetabled lessons has effectively been ruled out, we have been asked to explore how we could safely introduce some 'face-to-face time' with Year 10 students to support them with their ongoing home-learning. We are working closely with other schools, the Department for Education and professional associations to consider how we can best do this. Although, we want all students to benefit in some way, we are particularly keen to have regular contact with those who have found it most difficult to engage in their vital studies since lockdown.

As you can imagine, there are a myriad of issues to overcome. However, as guidance is clarified and refined, I am sure we can successfully work through any obstacles. As always, our foremost consideration will be the safety and well-being of our students, their families and our staff; but we all know that schools have to re-open in some form at some stage.

I understand that this is an unsettling time; however, we have received assurances from the highest levels that Year 10 students will not be disadvantaged by school closures. I can assure you that we are committed to ensuring that your child will be fully prepared for their examinations next year.

Pencelli Trip

Some of you have been asking about the situation regarding the Pencelli trip that was due to go out during the last week of the summer term.

I am afraid there is still no confirmation of what will happen, so we will just have to wait and see. If we unilaterally cancel, then there is a chance that there will be a cost implication for both parents and the school.

I think the safest thing to do is to recognise that it is very unlikely to go ahead but we need to wait a little longer to absolutely confirm that position.

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Year 10 English Examinations

OFQUAL, the exams regulator, recently announced that students who were due to take one or more of their GCSEs in Year 10 will be awarded a qualification this summer using the same process already in place for students in Year 11.

To summarise the procedure, we have been asked to produce two pieces of information for students who were due to take their GCSE English Language or Literature exams:

The first is the grade, based on our professional expertise and experience, which we believe would have been achieved if teaching, learning and exams had gone ahead as planned. This will be based on as wide a variety of supporting evidence as possible – including mocks, assessments, homework and class work.

The second is a rank order of all the students. This is required to allow fine tuning nationally to ensure that the grades awarded this year are similar to those awarded in previous years.

The information that we need to submit to exam boards is confidential. Please do not ask for information about the grades or the rankings, as we are not allowed to share these.

Results day will still be on August 20th 2020.

Year 10 Work Experience

After careful consideration, we have made the decision to cancel work experience for Year 10, which was due to start on Monday June 22nd. Many businesses are struggling to cope with the current crisis and have unsurprisingly pulled out of offering a placement.

However, at parental discretion and risk, there is nothing to stop a private arrangement being made – particularly where “once in a lifetime” opportunities have been organised through friends or other contacts.

Reading List

I have included a reading list at the end of this letter, just in case your child is in need of a bit of extra inspiration!

I hope things are going well and that you, your family and friends continue to be happy, healthy and safe.

Best wishes



Andy Steele
Headteacher

Reading List

Adventure/Crime/Thriller

Dangerous Deception

The Bunker Diary

American Psycho

The Maltese Falcon

The Name of the Rose

Woman in White

Brighton Rock

The 39 Steps

Fantasy/Horror

The Blessed

City of Ashes Series

Hush, Hush

Evermore

Fallen

Biography/Autobiography

This Book is Gay

Stupid White Men

My Left Foot

Hideous Kinky

Frost in May

The Long Walk to Freedom

Science Fiction

The Passage

Left Hand of Darkness

The Drowned World

Fahrenheit 451

Neuromancer

Slaughterhouse Five

The Day of the Triffids

1984

Consider Phlebus

K Garcia

K Brooks

B E Ellis

D Hammett

U Eco

W Collins

G Greene

J Buchan

T Hurley

C Clare

B Fitzpatrick

A Noel

L Kate

J Dawson

M Moore

C Brown

E Freud

A White

N Mandela

J Cronin

U K Le Guin

J G Ballard

R Bradbury

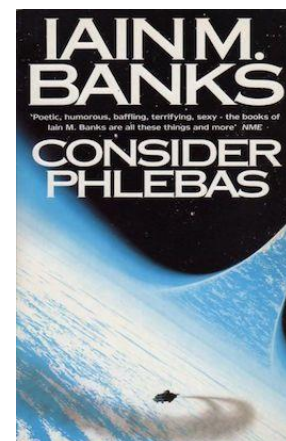
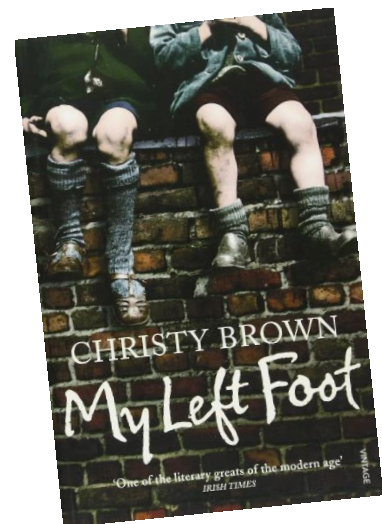
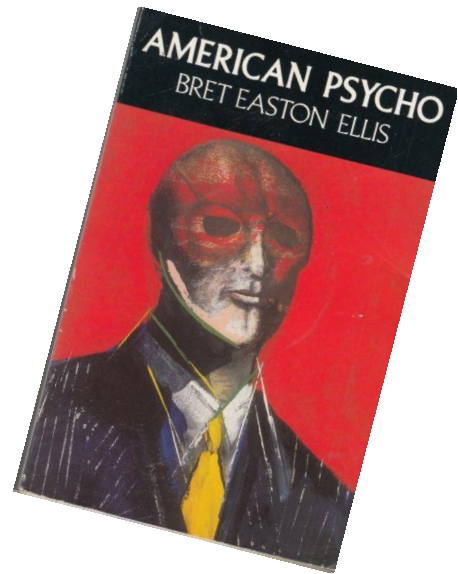
W Gibson

K Vonnegut

J Wyndham

G Orwell

I M Banks



History/Current Affairs

The Secret Agent	J Conrad
The Red Badge of Courage	S Crane
Room	E Donoghue
The Blasphemer	N Farndale
Captain Corelli's Mandolin	L De Bernieres

Different Cultures

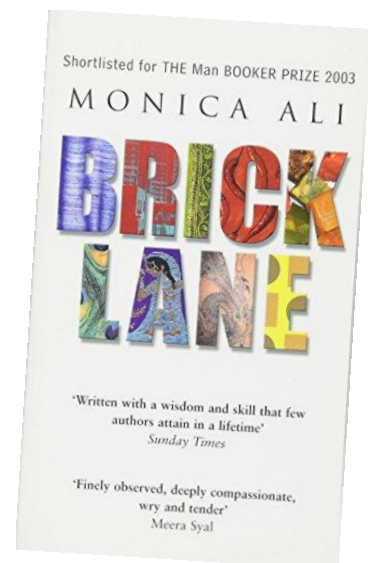
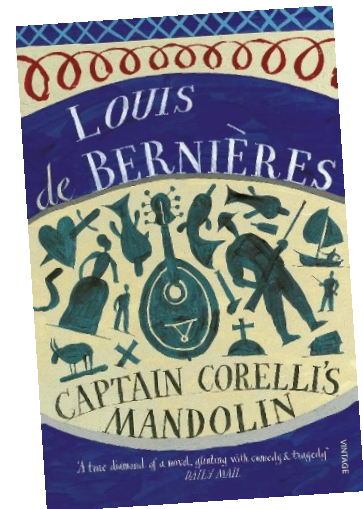
And the Mountains Echoed	K Hosseini
Terror Kid	B Zephaniah
Sunday at the Pool in Kigali	G Courtemanche
Bonjour Tristesse	F Sagan
White Teeth	Z Smith
Chronicle of a Death Foretold	G Marquez
Midnight's Children	S Rushdie

General

Boys Don't Cry	M Blackman
Brick Lane	M Ali
The Remains of the Day	K Ishiguro
Life of Pi	Y Martel
House of Spirits	I Allende
Vernon God Little	DBC Pierre
The Summer I Turned Pretty	J Han
The Crow Road	I Banks

Classics

Orlando	V Woolf
Cold Comfort Farm	S Gibbons
Jane Eyre	C Bronte
Pride and Prejudice	J Austen
Great Expectations	C Dickens
The Picture of Dorian Gray	O Wilde
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	M Twain



If you don't like the look of any of these, there are loads of lists of great books on the Internet....or contact your favourite teacher and ask them for a recommendation!