



## ST MARY'S COLLEGE

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to inform you that your son/daughter will **not** be sitting his/her English Language GCSE at the end of Year 10.

Although this is historically what the school has done (and I fully appreciate the reasons for this as an English teacher myself) after many discussions with the Senior Team, English staff and students themselves, we feel that this is the right decision due to the following reasons:

- The last uninterrupted year of schooling that the current 10 experienced was when they were Year 7
- We believe that in order for your son/daughter to fulfil their potential he/she needs as much time as possible in English lessons
- The teaching of English Literature fully supports the teaching of English Language skills and teaching the two side by side has tangible benefits
- Due to the varied experiences of students in the Lockdowns and having to self-isolate numerous times over the last 2 school years, it would not be the moral approach to enter students for this exam this year.

All other GCSE examinations that have historically taken place at the end of Year 10 will continue to do so – due to these subjects not being timetabled into the Year 11 curriculum – it is English Language which is the exception.

I am confident as the Head of School and an English specialist that this is the right decision for your child and will allow them to learn more, understand more and attain the best possible English outcomes at the end of Year 11.

Kind regards,

Mrs M Stead

**St Mary's College**  
Cranbrook Avenue  
Hull, HU6 7TN

**Tel.** 01482 851136  
**Fax.** 01482 804522  
**Email.** [admin@smchull.org](mailto:admin@smchull.org)

@SMCHull  
 @SMCHull  
[www.smchull.org](http://www.smchull.org)

**CEO**  
Mr G Fitzpatrick

**Head of School**  
Mrs M Stead

