

15th October 2024

Year 9, English Text Study, November 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you will already be aware, the English curriculum is designed to empower our students with the knowledge, empathy and skills to become effective communicators of their own thoughts and feelings, and those of others.

As a result, we strive to engage with texts that challenge us, and open our eyes to history through the window of a story.

Next half-term, we will be studying John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* with our Year 9 students. The story follows two migrant workers in 1920s America and features strong themes of prejudice.

I am writing to you about this because I would like you and your child to be aware that the novel includes language that would not be acceptable today. Some of the most unacceptable language in the text relates to racial slurs. Whilst it can be upsetting to see such language printed in text, we believe it is important that we do not censor history. Your child will have the opportunity to discuss and understand how different groups of people have been treated so poorly in the past, and why we know that this is not acceptable in a modern society.

When we have studied this novel with students in the past, they have really enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the progression of attitudes to different groups of people in society over time, and students have commented on how memorable and impactful the text was on their thinking. You may have even studied *Of Mice and Men* yourself!

I understand that you may have questions about the novel, so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or for further information.

Yours faithfully,



Zara McFetridge
Head of English