

January 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to inform you that Year 8 will be studying 'Of Mice and Men' this term through to Easter. The novel contains some adult themes concerning challenging attitudes towards racism and sexism.

Developing this understanding is key to helping students achieve higher grades in their GCSE Literature exams, because it is a key component that is assessed by the exam board. Therefore, the decision to teach this text to Year 8 has been taken to help support the increased challenge and rigour of the new GCSEs that they will begin in Year 9.

I would like to reassure you that these themes will be taught to the students within the context of the text, so there is a clear understanding that certain language is no longer accepted in our modern society and it is simply a reflection of attitudes at the time that the text was written. Students that choose to use this language out of context will be sanctioned seriously in the normal way in which the school deals with any such issues.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the studying of this text, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's class teacher.

Yours faithfully



Michelle Pike
Head of KS3 English