

## Greenhead College English Department: January 2011

Dear Student

If you decide to study English Literature either by following the AS English Literature course or the combined English Language and Literature course, you may wish to begin some preparatory reading before you start in September; this would be both enjoyable and useful. If you opt to follow the AS English Literature you will be reading for the examination one of the following novels and one of the following poets:

### **Novels:**

Mary Shelley – *Frankenstein*

Charlotte Bronte – *Jane Eyre*

Henry James – *The Turn of the Screw*

Oscar Wilde – *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Joseph Conrad – *The Secret Agent*

Virginia Woolf – *Mrs Dalloway*

### **Poetry:**

Robert Browning

Emily Dickinson

Edward Thomas

W.B. Yeats

We cannot guarantee which of these texts you will be studying but to make a start on reading any of these can only be a good thing to do. You might like to dip into other texts by the same authors or of a similar type e.g. a Bronte novel, 'Dracula' or 'Lord Jim' (Conrad).

As you will be aware you will also be studying a range of coursework written after 1900. These might include novels by Pat Barker, Cormac McCarthy, Catherine O'Flynn or Ian McEwan. All good stuff to read over the summer – any titles by these writers.

If you are intending to follow the Combined Course you will definitely be studying:

Khaled Hosseini - *The Kite Runner*

Tennessee Williams – *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Harold Pinter – *The Caretaker*

As with Literature you are encouraged to read these texts or any others by the same author.

### **Student purchasing of books**

Since 2010 it is the English department policy that students purchase their own texts so that they can make notes in them and experience the pleasure of owning them. We have negotiated good discount rates with a local supplier and you will be able to order these through College when you arrive.

Costs will vary between classes and courses but if you budget for an expenditure of between £20 – £25, this should cover the whole AS course in English.