

6 January 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

## RE: Functional Skills English

I am writing to inform you that your child will be studying Functional Skills English in their weekly Year 9 Literacy lesson from Spring 2023. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to practise the essential language skills they will need for their GCSEs, gain valuable exam practice, and earn an additional English qualification that is recognised by Post-16 apprenticeship providers and Further Education colleges.

### What is Functional Skills English?

AQA Functional Skills English is a nationally-recognised qualification designed to help students rise to the challenge of GCSE exams. Functional Skills English students are assessed in three key areas at Level One and Level Two: Reading, Writing and Spoken Language – the same areas they will be assessed in at a higher level for GCSE English Language in Year 10 and 11. Studying for this foundation qualification will give your child additional exam practice to boost their confidence and motivate them to continue on to further success at GCSE level.

### How will they be assessed?

Students will sit externally-marked exams in March 2023 and June 2023. They will complete their Spoken Language assessments in their Literacy lessons. It is possible to resit these exams as many times as needed for students to gain their qualification, and they will be supported by their teachers every step of the way.

We will give students all the guidance and resources they need to complete these assessments in their Literacy lessons, so studying for this qualification will not affect the time they have for their other subjects.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about the Functional Skills English programme, please contact me at [kate.compton@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:kate.compton@driffieldschool.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Dr K Compton  
Assistant Director of English