

## Secondary School

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Dear Parents,

As you know there has been recent communication regarding after school activities that your children have now elected, or not, to sign up for and commit themselves to. At the initial stage of this procedure all teachers early on in term must submit an after school club for the students to choose from. I volunteered to run a poetry appreciation club. Sadly, despite early signs of enthusiasm, no students finally did sign up and the club was cancelled.

I will not give up however. A critical appreciation of poetry can be fun and ultimately rewarding as students will practise and consolidate reading technique and analytical skills needed for their success in IGCSE English, IGCSE Literature and IB Literature later on. I am not writing this letter proposing you push this after school club upon your children however. Rather, I invite **you** to join my club and discover the poetry and presentational style of the same poems your children must learn and read for their IGCSE course in Literature.

My thinking is threefold. Firstly, it is an opportunity to empower parents with the school work covered in class that our children are sadly too hesitant to discuss with us at home. It is an opportunity to reveal to you the keys to unlock the poems' ambiguity and remind our children that we do in fact know all and can discuss their poetry quite effectively around the dinner table. Secondly, it is an opportunity to be part of the same experience that your children will meet during school time; you will be able to visualise the same lesson as you yourselves will have experienced it before it is taught to them. Lastly, though I cannot offer wine and hors d'oeuvres, good company and discussion should generate appetite enough for good literature. It is my hope that this will raise the profile of my department and appreciation of fine poetry whilst at the same time invite you to see first hand what it is we do in our poetry classes.

I would like to run this club on Wednesdays after school 3:30 – 4:30pm to parents of our Key Stage 4 students (Years 10 and 11) in particular, however all are welcome. I would like to begin such a club as soon as numbers make this idea feasible and before poetry is taught to your children in class.

If you are interested, please do contact me via school e-mail so that I can confirm exactly when we can begin.

I hope to see many of you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Gunnell

