



Headteacher: Mr D Reeve BSc (Hons)

27th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year the AS Film Studies class will study a range of texts when looking at UK cinema (focusing on living with crime in Britain) and US cinema (focusing on romance and film noir). The films have been approved by the exam board (WJEC) to demonstrate a variety of styles and narratives around these themes. The films are:

For UK cinema:

Bullet Boy (director Saul Dibb, 2004) certificate 15

This is England (director Shane Meadows, 2006) certificate 18

[Shallow Grave (director Danny Boyle, 1994) certificate 18 – will be taught in extracts only, so students do not need to purchase this film]

These films have been chosen for their representation of various communities, social classes and portrayals of authority figures. They all appear on examiners reports as films used successfully in previous assessments.

For US cinema:

Casablanca (director Michael Curtiz, 1942) certificate U

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (director Michel Gondry, 2004) certificate 15

These films have been paired for their contrasting styles and perspectives on love and relationships.

18 certificate films have been recommended by the exam board and therefore this list is typical of the films that can be studied in the unit. They are mixed in with lower certificate films to enable students to appreciate varying representation issues and genres. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In addition, students will study Hollywood and the UK film industry (an important topic given that UK film contributes over £4.6 billion to UK GDP and more than £1.3 billion to the Exchequer). To support their studies, the department will lend students the following textbook: AS Film Studies, Benyahia, Gaffney and White, Routledge, 2008. Students will only pay for the cost of the book if it is lost/damaged.

I appreciate these texts make a significant demand on your pocket and I have suggested students may wish to spread the cost by buying films together and finding cheaper sources for getting the DVDs (such as FOPP).

In addition, there are websites that students will find invaluable in addressing the requirements of the exam (suzannemorris.wordpress.com and entertainment news on websites such as the BBC) or podcasts such as Radio 4's The Film Programme. These will let students demonstrate the wider reading that is looked for in the exam and as a strength on any future application forms.

If you have any questions about this, or any aspect of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Suzanne Morris

Subject Leader in Film Studies