Joseph Banks Secondary College
40 Joseph Banks Boulevard, Banksia Grove, WA, 6031
Ph: (08) 9303 7400
Website: jbsc.wa.edu.au
Em: JosephBanks.SC@education.wa.edu.au

Dear families,

The College will be introducing new texts into both the English ATAR and Literature ATAR courses for 2027. We recognise the importance of keeping families informed about these decisions, particularly where texts include mature or challenging content. This letter outlines the texts students will be studying in Years 11 and 12, along with the reasons for their selection and how they will be explored in class.

English ATAR
As part of our English ATAR curriculum, students will be studying the following texts in Year 11: Fahrenheit 451, Soul, Servant to Slave, and Close to Home. In Year 12, students will study Stolen Car, Gran Torino, True Grit, and The Complete Maus. These texts have been carefully selected for their engaging topics, strong links to syllabus topics and ability to explore with context, culture and identity, which are central pillars of the ATAR course. Please note that some of these texts contain mature themes and language, including depictions of violence, discrimination, racism, and intergenerational trauma. These elements are presented in context and serve educational purposes, encouraging critical thinking, empathy, and awareness of complex social and historical issues. All materials will be studied in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner, with opportunities for discussion and support provided throughout.

ATAR Literature
As part of our Literature ATAR curriculum, students will be studying the following texts in Year 11: Othello, Sorry, The Crucible and 1984. In Year 12, students will study: Blackrock, Glengarry Glen Ross, The Handmaid's Tale, and The Yellow Wallpaper. These works have been chosen as they explore important issues surrounding gender, power structures, morality, mental health, capitalism and societal expectations. Please note that these texts contain mature content and challenging subject matter, including coarse language, sexism, violence, and references to psychological distress and sexual assault. Despite this content, these subject matters are integral for exploring complex issues that reflect important issues within society and invite discussion about the author's purpose. All materials will be taught with sensitivity and respect, ensuring that discussions remain appropriate and supportive. Students will be encouraged to reflect thoughtfully on the ideas and contexts presented.

If parents or guardians have any concerns about particular content, please contact the classroom teacher to discuss alternative arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Jones
Leading Teacher – English

23 November 2026