

English Literature



ENGLISH LITERATURE

This course is for you if you love reading and have a thirst to view the world in different ways and from different perspectives. You will read much, think intensely, and learn a great deal about literature and literary criticism, analytical skills and how to communicate your ideas with eloquence and precision.

What will I study?

A Level Unit 1: Literary Genres – Aspects of Tragedy (40%)

The focus of this unit is on how a genre from the ancient past retains its relevance within our own time – and every era in between. You will study a Shakespearean tragedy, alongside a modern dramatic tragedy and a collection of tragic poetry. With ties to music, art, dance and philosophy, studying Tragedy will expand your cultural as well as literary horizons. Our current texts are *Othello*, *Death of a Salesman* and a collection of Keats' poetry.

A Level Unit 2: Texts and genres – Political and Social Protest (40%)

In an era of significant political and social change around the world – the rise of populism, a change in European relationships, and Greta Thunberg's Climate Strike movement, for example – this unit is timely and fascinating. As Margaret Atwood says, 'A word after a word after a word is power.' Prepare to feel outrage and hope in equal measure! Our current texts are 'The Handmaid's Tale', 'The Kite Runner' and Blake's 'Songs of Innocence and of Experience'.

A Level Non-Exam Assessment: Theory and Independence (20%)

You will study two texts (one poetry and one prose), at least one of which you will independently choose. Your reading of these texts will be informed by study of the Critical Anthology, which will help you to read with different 'critical lenses' such as Feminism, Marxism, Postcolonialism and Ecocriticism.

You will write two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology.

Assessment

Unit 1: 2.5 hour examination; closed book

Unit 2: 3 hour examination; open book

Non-Exam Assessment: 2 essays. 1250-1500 words each.

Career Opportunities

English Literature helps to develop the analytical and communication skills, and wider knowledge of the world, that are highly desired by both Higher Education institutions and employers. The subject encourages us to think 'outside the box', to consider and empathise with different perspectives, and to form and evidence opinions.

This subject, at both A Level and degree level, is sought after by employers in a wide range of sectors such as worlds of media, public and information services, politics, law, research, teaching, publishing and business. Recent A Level Literature students at The Sixth Form have gone on to study and train in areas as diverse as Film Studies, Architecture, History, Psychology, Geography, Drama, Education and electrical work.

English Literature is a subject that rewards hard work and commitment, imagination and close attention to detail; so, it follows that success within the subject will demonstrate your abilities and strengths in these areas. Come and join us!

Entry Requirements

Five Level 4 GCSEs are required for entry into 6th Form.

Level 5 pass is required in your chosen, or related, subject.

Some subjects require Level 6; decisions will be based on individual students.

Specialist facilities

Fully resourced dedicated classrooms

Hours of study (fortnightly)

9 hours of lesson time
 6 hours independent learning

