



# A Level English Literature

**Key contact:**

Ms Fairclough (Director of English and KS5 Coordinator)

**Exam Board:**

AQA

## Overview of the course:

If you enjoy reading, discussing and critiquing books, it is very likely that you will enjoy English Literature! You will be able to study a wide range of plays, poetry and prose, and will develop a strong knowledge of their contexts and their critical reception. You will gain an awareness of the way texts have affected different audiences and develop your own critical awareness as well as your ability to make links between texts.

Choose this subject if you enjoy getting really involved in discussions and exchanging opinions. It is important that you are open to new ideas, as well as being ready to assert your own viewpoints about a text. In English Literature, the more you put into the lessons, the more you will get out of them, so don't expect to sit passively in lessons taking notes!

All students opting for English Literature will achieve a full A Level qualification at the end of the two year course.

The skills and attributes needed to succeed in this course include a willingness to share your opinions about texts, strong written communication skills and, above all, a love of literature.

## What will you study?

You will study drama, prose and poetry from as early as 1300, right up to the modern day. Much of the course is comprised of modern literature and there is opportunity to study the texts that most interest you. Naturally, we will study a Shakespeare play and Pre-1900 poetry as well as modern prose texts.

You will learn how to approach an unfamiliar text (unseen analysis) and how to make comparisons between texts.

You will also study criticism of various texts with a view to writing your own creative critical response. Over the course of the A Level there are opportunities for visits and trips to enhance your studies; look out for extra-curricular opportunities running throughout the year. In your free time, keep an eye on touring theatre companies and cinema releases.

## What I will read?...

Our teacher will make the decision over the best texts for you to study based upon their knowledge

of you as a class and their area of expertise, but you may like to have a look at a few of these possible set texts as a way of seeing the exciting range of texts of offer:

- Jane Austen: Persuasion
- Charlotte Brontë: Jane Eyre
- Emily Brontë: Wuthering Heights
- Kate Chopin: The Awakening
- Jonathan Coe: The Rotters' Club
- George Eliot: The Mill on the Floss
- Thomas Hardy: Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- F. Scott Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby
- E.M. Forster: A Room with a View
- L.P. Hartley: The Go-Between
- Daphne Du Maurier: Rebecca
- Ian McEwan: Atonement

## Assessment

Assessment is 80% exam (two papers) and 20% NEA (Non Exam Assessment).

## Possible career path?

A Level English Literature does not just prepare you for reading English at university. Your studies will lead to an improvement in your spoken and written skills of analysis, communication and understanding. As an academic A Level which demands flexible thinking skills and a fluent writing style, it is welcomed in almost all fields of further study and employment. In increasingly competitive higher education and employment markets, English Literature is a highly respected subject, viewed as a traditional and academically rigorous A Level which gives its students essential, transferable skills.

The study of Literature will increase your opportunities in the following careers:

- Journalism
- Publishing
- Television
- Advertising
- Marketing / PR
- Copywriting
- Teaching 

## Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including Mathematics and English Language, **and** English Literature to Grade 6 or above.