



# English Literature

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Contact teacher:** Mr P Lloyd

## Why study English Literature?

If you enjoy reading and discussing the text then you will enjoy English Literature at A Level. You will read a number of novels, short stories, plays and poems to develop the technique of analysing literature which will enrich your reading and give you an invaluable command of language. You will have the opportunity to see plays, attend conferences and other cultural events. A strong command in English Literature is highly valued in all professions, since it fosters clear thinking and precise use of language.

You will read plays by Shakespeare as well as modern and contemporary fiction, drama and poetry. 60% of the course is assessed by examination and 40% by coursework.

We currently study Hamlet, Great Expectations and Ian McEwan's Enduring Love in Year 12 as well as the poetry of Keats and Thomas Hardy. In Year 13 we study Macbeth, Chaucer's The Pardoner's Tale, Cormac McCarthy's The Road and T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land.

## Course details

### AS level

**Unit 1:** Aspects of Narrative. Two novels (at least one post 1990) and two poetry texts are studied.

**Unit 2:** Dramatic Genres. A minimum of two texts are studied within the dramatic genre of Tragedy. A portfolio of two pieces of written coursework is produced (one may be creative) each is 1200-1500 words.

### A2 level

**Unit 3:** Texts and Genres. There are a minimum of three texts for study, at least one text from 1300-1800. Candidates choose one topic area for study: Elements of the Gothic or Elements of the Pastoral. For each topic there will be two sections.

**Unit 4:** Further and Independent Reading. There a minimum of three texts for study including one pre-released anthology of critical material. There is also a portfolio of two pieces of written coursework; a comparative study of an aspect of two texts (1500-2000 words); and the application of an aspect of the pre-released critical anthology to a literary text (1200-1500 words).

## How is the course taught and assessed?

There will be plenty of discussion and the mutual sharing of ideas. There will also be opportunities for students to explore and develop their own interests within the framework of the course.

**Entry requirements**

Students will need 6 GCSE passes at grade C or above including Mathematics. Students are required to have achieved a C grade or more in GCSE English Language **and** English Literature.

**What are the progression routes with this qualification?**

English Literature at A or AS level is a qualification highly valued in all professions, since it fosters clear thinking and precise use of language. Students considering careers in the media or journalism will find English particularly helpful but the command of language it gives is a skill prized in all walks of life.

**What extra work can I do?**

Wide reading is helpful and is encouraged especially additional work by the set authors on your reading lists.