



## English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Contact teacher: Mrs N Parsons

### Why study English Literature?

Firstly, if you enjoy reading then you will love the study of English Literature at A level. A level English Literature studies a much broader spectrum of texts than at GCSE and allows students a much greater insight into the development of texts, linking them to context across a wider space of time.

Students who take English Literature acquire skills in critical thinking, cultural understanding and, of course, in written and verbal communication. Students will learn how to construct an essay, to reference and research – all fantastic skills to set them up for University life, regardless of their chosen specialism.

Successful completion of the course could lead students into a career in marketing, sales, advertising, journalism, law, PR, teaching or public speaking.

### Course details

Over the course of two years, students will study the following two broad topics:

- i. Love Through the Ages
- ii. Texts in Shared Contexts: The First World War and Its Aftermath.

Texts studied include:

Love Through the Ages	Shakespeare's 'Othello', or 'Measure for Measure' 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald and a selection of love poetry from across the ages.
Texts in Shared Contexts: The First World War and Its Aftermath.	'Journey's End' by R. C. Sherriff, 'The New Oxford Book of War Poetry (Oxford Books of Prose & Verse)' by Jon Stallworthy (Editor) 'A Long Long Way' by Sebastian Barry and a selection of texts that cover the war and its aftermath

The A level examination consists of two exam papers:

#### **Paper 1: Love Through the Ages: 3 hour written exam.**

Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay

Section B: Unseen poetry: compulsory essay question on two unseen poems

Section C: Comparing texts: one essay question linking two texts

#### **Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts: The First World War and Its Aftermath: 2 hour 30 minutes written exam.**

Section A: Set texts. One essay question on set text

Section B: Contextual linking: one compulsory question on an unseen extract, plus one essay question linking two texts

Students also complete a 2,000 word non-examined assessment comparing two texts of their choice.

**Independent Critical Study: Extended coursework essay**

There is also a coursework unit where you can, with guidance from your teachers, choose the texts you study and write about. You will complete a 2500 word essay on a question of your own devising.

The only requirements are that one was written pre-1900 and they must be by different authors.

**How is the course taught and assessed?**

The course is taught by two members of staff.

Students are given a 'long-term plan' for each module. They are expected to complete the 'pre-lesson requirement tasks' which often involve research and reading around the subject.

There are 8 lessons given per fortnight and an expected 10 hours per fortnight independent study to ensure full understanding.

**Entry requirement**

This qualification is available to anyone who achieves a grade 6 or higher in English Language and/or English Literature at GCSE level.