

ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH LITERATURE?

Writers throughout the ages and across genres have addressed the same human concerns, analysed the same human emotions and upheld the same human ideals. Studying Literature increases our understanding of what it is to be human within a variety of contexts as well as developing vital analytical and critical skills and encouraging fluent, confident and reasoned argument, both orally and in writing. The study of English Literature in the Sixth Form develops a great variety of workplace skills but most of all, you should choose to study Literature because you desire to do so.

COURSE DETAILS

The course requires that you study 2 prose texts, 2 drama texts including one Shakespearean play and 2 poetry texts (i.e. collections of poems.) This is in addition to studying two further coursework texts. 20% of the A Level is represented by coursework which incorporates a fantastic choice of texts from Chaucer, through Shakespeare and war poetry to modern prose.

COURSE LAYOUT

Our current set texts are as follows:

'The Great Gatsby' – F. Scott Fitzgerald

'The Handmaid's Tale' – Margaret Atwood

'AQA Poetry Anthology'

'Feminine Gospels' – Carol Ann Duffy

'Top Girls' – Caryl Churchill

'Othello' – William Shakespeare



HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

An A Level in English Literature is an advantage when applying to enter almost any profession as it proves strong communication skills, an ability to read and analyse a great deal of written material with speed and precision as well as demonstrating the ability to construct convincing prose.

Specific career options related to the study of these A Levels are as follows:

- Law
- Journalism
- Education
- Politics
- Social services
- Civil service
- Advertising
- PR
- Speech therapy
- Broadcasting
- Advertising/Marketing
- Forensic linguistics

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must have achieved a GCSE Grade 6 in both English Literature and English Language in order to be able to access the academic requirements of this course.

You need to possess an open mind, a passion for debate, the ability to analyse literary language, character and theme, the determination to construct a logical and coherent argument and, above all, a real love of reading.

RELATED SUBJECTS

English Language, Theatre Studies, History, Religious Studies and Classics.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The English department really enjoy and celebrate our subject. We always take our Sixth Form groups to see the plays which we are studying, assuming we can find a production within striking distance. We also expect our Sixth Form students to participate in English department co curricular activities such as public speaking, debating, creative writing and celebrations such as National Poetry Day and World Book Day.

