

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE



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This popular and successful course is brilliant for people who love reading and talking about books.

We explore how writers create stories and characters. We read and discuss novels, poetry, short stories and plays. How do you feel about this character? Why did she behave like that? How important is the setting? Why did the writer choose that word? How many different interpretations can you think of? These are typical questions we discuss in lessons and in writing. We love heated debates about life and literature!

The step up from GCSE is that we dig even deeper into how books reflect the world around us. What was happening when this book was written? What is the writer saying about society? How have things changed? Does that make us see things differently?

We also dig deep into language and style: you will learn a wealth of new words and technical terms – and explore challenging and mind-expanding theories.



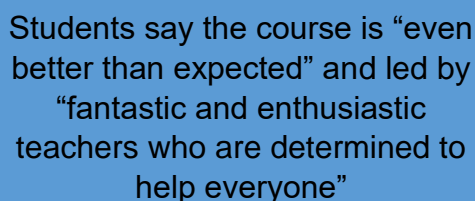
TEACHING AND LEARNING

Staff in our department are highly qualified and experienced at A Level teaching.

In lessons you will enjoy a lively range of activities to develop your skills:

- Discussions in small groups and with the whole class
- Presentations and lectures
- Individual and group research
- Using on-line video resources
- Improving your note-making
- Devising arguments and debates
- Making links between texts
- Learning new technical terms
- Planning and writing essays
- Quizzes and learning games
- Effective revision

Students prepare lessons by reading and research; we have excellent resources in the LRC and on-line. Our student feedback is outstanding: students say they especially love the freedom to come up with your own viewpoint and the lively debates when people have different interpretations.



Students say the course is “even better than expected” and led by “fantastic and enthusiastic teachers who are determined to help everyone”

A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Paper One (30%)

- An essay on pre-1900 poetry (*Paradise Lost*, Book 9, by John Milton)
- An essay comparing two post-1900 poets (Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath)

Paper Two (30%)

- An essay on a Shakespeare play (*The Tempest*)
- An essay comparing one pre-1900 play (Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*) with a post-1900 play (*A Streetcar Named Desire*)

Paper Three (20%)

- An essay on unseen prose
- An essay on unseen poetry

Coursework (20%)

- An extended essay based on a reading of 2 novels from different periods (*We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson and *All the Birds, Singing* by Evie Wyld)

ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

We require at least a level 4 at GCSE English or English Language though we strongly recommend you have level 5 or above as the course involves well developed skills of reading and writing.

We organise many optional trips and visits to the theatre and to lectures – the average cost for one of our trips is about £25. (Students can of course apply for financial support.)

WHAT NEXT?

English Literature goes well with a very wide range of other subjects. It can be taken with A Level English Language (an excellent combination if English is your passion).

The skills you learn are highly valued by employers in all areas of work: the ability to read challenging material, understand complex ideas, select evidence, research, analyse, construct an argument and write with confidence. English Literature A Level can lead to employment in business, marketing, journalism, teaching, health, the media, the law, creative industries in the arts and many other areas of work. This course is accepted as a “facilitating subject” by competitive universities.

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