

# Welcome to A Level English Literature at Newstead Wood School!

Dear students,

On behalf of the English department, I am delighted to welcome you to an exciting course. You have made the best choice possible! This two-year course will challenge you and at the same time inspire you to be the best you can be. There will be time for laughter and time for deep serious thought. There will be heated discussions and moments of reflection. Initially, you will strive to quickly bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level. Then, you will soar to great heights!



*'The Metaphysical Poets' "The most heterogeneous ideas are yoked by violence together" - Samuel Jonson*



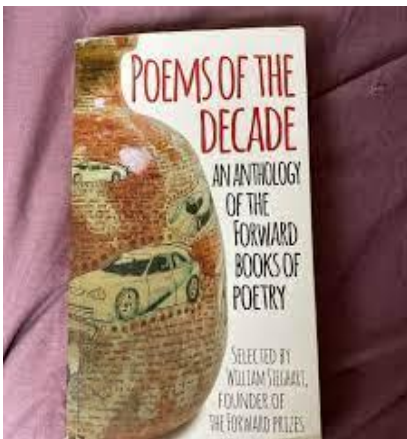
*Still from Elia Kazan's Oscar-winning adaptation of Tennessee William's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1947 play 'A Streetcar Named Desire'*

This subject opens many doors; excellent grades will equip you to choose from a range of careers. Those of you who watched the 'Power of English' virtual event in October last year at Newstead, would recall the wide range of professionals and Alumni who talked about how the study of English empowered their working lives. Medicine, Engineering, Journalism, Education, Media, Accountancy, Research, Commerce...the list goes on! President Trudeau has a degree in Literature!

English staff are a group of eccentric and at the same time dedicated people who thoroughly enjoy the subject themselves, so they are passionate about what they teach. They will prepare you well for your examinations; you only have to look at our track record of excellent results, composed mainly of A\* and A grades. Many students go on to read English Literature at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. Our Alumni often visit us and talk about the brilliant careers their studies enabled them to pursue.



*Image from an adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's compelling novel 'A Thousand Splendid Suns': a breath-taking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years*



*This anthology offers a dazzling array of modern poetry. As one reviewer put it: "These annual anthologies of the poems in the running for the Forward Prizes remain the best way of encountering the richness that new poetry has to offer."*

The English department is always very busy with extracurricular activities like visits to universities, events in school like the Literary Festival, master classes led by academics and so on. There are also many Leadership opportunities like becoming Subject Leaders and leading the English Society.



*Still from an adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy 'Othello', known for its enduring themes of passion, jealousy and race*



Please see below some ideas to inspire you over the summer holiday.

Best wishes,

*Ms Renganathan*

(Head of English)

1. 'Making the Leap': an e-magazine produced by the English and Media Centre.

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/video-clips/clip-listing/making-the-leap-moving-from-gcse-to-a-level-literature-study-emagclips>

2. British Library on Wuthering Heights:

<https://www.bl.uk/works/wuthering-heights>

3. BBC In Our Time on Shakespeare:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546s8>



### [BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Shakespeare's Work](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546s8)

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the work of William Shakespeare. He was nominated as the Man of the last Millennium and he steps into this one - on film, on stage, in academia, in schools, in ...

[www.bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

4. BBC collection of podcasts on the Brontes:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04d3r2l>

5. Emma Smith: 'This is Shakespeare'

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/This-Shakespeare-Pelican-Books-Smith/dp/024136163X#:~:text=This%20is%20Shakespeare,Smith%20\(Author\)](https://www.amazon.co.uk/This-Shakespeare-Pelican-Books-Smith/dp/024136163X#:~:text=This%20is%20Shakespeare,Smith%20(Author))

6. Robert Eaglestone: 'Doing English'

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Doing-English-Robert-Eaglestone/dp/1138039675/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=17X42WEIJ3JYT&keywords=doing+english%23&qid=1686812837&s=books&sprefix=doing+english%2Cstripbooks%2C61&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Doing-English-Robert-Eaglestone/dp/1138039675/ref=sr_1_1?crid=17X42WEIJ3JYT&keywords=doing+english%23&qid=1686812837&s=books&sprefix=doing+english%2Cstripbooks%2C61&sr=1-1)

7. Stephen Greenblatt: 'Will in the World'

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Will-World-How-Shakespeare-Became/dp/1847924522/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2AGOLZETTOHOA&keywords=will+in+the+world+greenblatt&qid=1686813217&s=books&sprefix=will+in+the+world+greenblatt%2Cstripbooks%2C91&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Will-World-How-Shakespeare-Became/dp/1847924522/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2AGOLZETTOHOA&keywords=will+in+the+world+greenblatt&qid=1686813217&s=books&sprefix=will+in+the+world+greenblatt%2Cstripbooks%2C91&sr=1-1)

8. Frank Kermode: 'Shakespeare's Language'.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Shakespeares-Language-Frank-Kermode-ebook/dp/B002RI92DY/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=23PMOKQ0SR4L9&keywords=frank+kermode+shakespeare%27s+language&qid=1686814033&s=books&sprefix=frank+kermode+shakespeare%27s+language%2Cstripbooks%2C289&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Shakespeares-Language-Frank-Kermode-ebook/dp/B002RI92DY/ref=sr_1_1?crid=23PMOKQ0SR4L9&keywords=frank+kermode+shakespeare%27s+language&qid=1686814033&s=books&sprefix=frank+kermode+shakespeare%27s+language%2Cstripbooks%2C289&sr=1-1)

9. Ruth Padel: 52 ways of looking at a poem.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ruth-Padel/e/B001HONMDK?ref=sr\\_ntt\\_srch\\_lnk\\_1&qid=1686814285&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ruth-Padel/e/B001HONMDK?ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1&qid=1686814285&sr=1-1)

10. Lennard: 'The Poetry Handbook'. [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Poetry-Handbook-John-Lennard/dp/0199265380/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=IL6ZYK8A4PBB&keywords=lennard+the+poetry+handbook&qid=1686814390&s=apparel&sprefix=lennard+the+poetry+handbook%2Cfashion%2C79&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Poetry-Handbook-John-Lennard/dp/0199265380/ref=sr_1_1?crid=IL6ZYK8A4PBB&keywords=lennard+the+poetry+handbook&qid=1686814390&s=apparel&sprefix=lennard+the+poetry+handbook%2Cfashion%2C79&sr=1-1)

## English Literature Bridging Unit 2023

1. Read Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* by September 2023. This will enable you to engage in some discussion with your teacher on themes and connections between the two novels. Your teacher will guide you through an initial writing task, based on close analysis and comparison, in September.

2. Re-read *Eat Me* by Patience Agbabi and *Chainsaw Versus the Pampas Grass* by Simon Armitage from Poems of the Decade. Recall our discussions during the 'New Year 12 Induction days'. This will prepare you to engage in some initial discussion about links between the two poems. Thereafter, your teacher will guide you through a writing task that will enable you to produce an analytical response, comparing the two poems.

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*These are the texts you will study in Year 12. We strongly advise you to buy copies of these, so that you can annotate them in class.*

*Emily Brontë: Wuthering Heights (Oxford World's Classics).*

*Khaled Hosseini: A Thousand Splendid Suns. (Bloomsbury ISBN: 9780747582793).*

*Poems Of The Decade. An Anthology of the Forward Books Of Poetry.*

*ISBN 978-571-32540-5.*

*Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire. (Penguin Modern Classics ISBN 978-0-141-19027-3*