

# A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE



## Course description

**Awarding Body:** Edexcel

## Course content

The A Level English Literature course is both exciting and challenging, enabling students to explore and enjoy a range of complex and ambitious poetry, prose and drama drawn from the past 400 years. Studying English develops precision and clarity in analytical thought and writing; it builds complexity and depth of knowledge about the world and how it has changed; it develops richness and variety of linguistic expression; and it encourages empathy and understanding for the lives of others.

### Component 1: DRAMA

Students study *A Streetcar Named Desire* in Year 12 and *Othello* in Year 13. They also explore an anthology of critical essays in Year 13, that complements the study of *Othello* and the tragic genre.

### Component 2: PROSE

Students read two prose texts on the theme of 'Women and Society': *Wuthering Heights* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Both texts are studied in Year 12.

### Component 3: POETRY

In Year 12, students engage in the close reading of poetic form, language and structure from a selection of **contemporary poetry** – *Poems of the Decade* - and compare an unseen poem with a named poem from the collection. They also study a collection of Metaphysical Poetry in Year 13.

### Component 4: COURSEWORK

Students write one extended comparative essay exploring any two texts of their choice. There are no genre or date restrictions, except that these texts should not have been studied previously by the centre. This gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in an exploration of a topic they are passionate about.

## Entry requirements

Grade 7 in English Literature GCSE.

## Future opportunities

Our students successfully apply to read English at the most competitive academic universities, including Oxbridge and the Russell Group. The study of English Literature offers an excellent foundation for reading any subject at university and is particularly important for those hoping to work in Law, the Media, Management, Medicine, Engineering, Accountancy, IT and any field where effective communication and analytical skills are a requirement.

Students in Year 12 are invited to apply for positions as Student Subject Leaders and their role is to promote the subject across the school, mentor younger students, run revision sessions for Year 10 and Year 11 students, speak to parents at Open Evening and generally be ambassadors for the subject across all Key Stages.

## Further information

Our results are consistently high. Once again, the 2019 results were excellent; 95% achieved A\*-B grades, of which 76% were A\*-A grades. 29% were A\* grades. Our English Department is blessed with exceptionally enthusiastic, skilled and experienced staff. The team is also eccentric and egotistical, truly believing and proving that this is indeed the best A Level subject! The proof of this claim lies in the challenging and wide range of activities on offer that, apart from enabling our students to achieve excellent grades, also foster a lifelong love and enjoyment of literature. Numerous theatre trips have been organised, including *Othello*, *King Lear*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The White Devil* and *'Tis pity she's a whore*. Last year, we organised the Newstead Literary Festival and a visit to The British Library. In October this year, we organised 'The Power of English', an event that showcased the way English empowers a range of professionals in their careers. We also enable our students to engage with academics, listening to and discussing relevant topics. Oxbridge applicants are offered support sessions that help them to prepare for the ELAT as well as the interview. A mock ELAT is carried out in school and marked by staff, who also offer feedback on performance.