

## English Literature

### **Why choose English Literature?**

Studying English Literature at A level offers the opportunity for students to read widely and discerningly, considering the big questions that the best texts raise. The close study of literary texts allows you to consider the human condition and to consider the world from different perspectives – historical, social, political, religious and philosophical.

As a keen reader, you will become a keen writer, practising academic essays that develop your skills of analysis, interpretation and literary insights. You will explore how writers present characters, themes, ideologies, personal emotions and social commentary.

When possible, we will watch live performances of the texts and attend study days dedicated to the texts.

### **What can I expect to learn?**

You will follow the Edexcel A- Level English Literature course. This encompasses the study of a range of literature, from different genres and time periods, which are engaging and challenging. In addition to the prescribed texts, you will have the chance to pursue your own literary interests through the coursework element of the course.

To support your study of the texts, you will explore the contexts within which the texts were produced, received and understood. This will involve reading from a variety of 'critical perspectives' to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the texts.

The texts you will study are Shakespeare's 'Othello', Webster's 'The Duchess' of Malfi', Hardy's 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' and Hosseini's 'A Thousand Splendid Suns'. You will also study a named poet from a literary period and a range of poetry written post-2000.

At the end of Year 12, you will begin to undertake your independent coursework (an extended essay) in which you explore two linked texts. This task is worth 20% of your A-level grade

Final assessment is in the form of 3 examinations which form 80% of your final grade.

### **Where does this course lead?**

Students of A-level English Literature often progress to study the subject at degree level. However, study of this subject develops critical writing and thinking skills which are highly valued by admissions tutors and employers alike. It is therefore a useful complementary subject in applications for other degree courses.

English Literature will be useful in careers such as journalism, law, politics, teaching, management, publishing and the civil service.

### **Entry requirements:**

Grades 9-7 at GCSE in English and English Literature provide the ideal basis for being able to successfully access the subject at A level but this can be negotiated with the Subject Leader.

