



## ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA

### Why should I study English Literature?

The aim of this course is to encourage students to develop an interest in and enjoyment of a wide range of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender. The course offers a clear philosophy of reading critically and places an emphasis on encouraging students to be independent readers through a course of wide and close reading.

At AS level students will consider how readers' responses are shaped by the context, by writers' choice and by other readers' interpretations. The A2 course both widens and deepens students' literary studies by moving from a defined area of study to the whole of English Literature from Chaucer to the present day and developing the informed autonomous reader by providing maximum opportunities for choice and the development of students' own interests.

### Entry requirements

Minimum GCSE grade B in English Language and English Literature

### Assessment

The course is assessed by examination only in June.

**N.B. All students choosing English Literature will be required to take AS level prior to studying for A2 level even though the grade at AS does not carry forward nor influence the grade achieved at A2.**

### Programme of Study

#### AS Level: Love Through the Ages

##### **Paper 1: Shakespeare and Poetry**

This unit involves the close study of one Shakespeare play and one AQA anthology of love poetry through the ages.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes exam – closed book

##### **Paper 2: Prose**

In this unit, candidates will study and compare two set prose texts and a number of unseen prose passages.

Assessment: 1 hours 30 minutes exam – open book

### **A-Level: Love through the Ages and Texts in Shared Contexts**

#### **Paper 1: Love Through the Ages**

Students will study three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. They will also study a range of poetry in preparation for a question on two unseen poems in the exam.

Assessment: 3 hour exam – combination of open and closed book

#### **Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts – Modern Times**

This unit will encourage students to reflect on how attitudes, themes and ideas have changed in the modern world by studying one prose text, one poetry collection and one drama as well as a range of extracts from prose, poetry and drama.

Assessment: 2 hour 30 minutes exam – open book

#### **Non-exam assessment: Independent Critical Study: texts across time**

Students write an essay in which they critically compare two texts across time.

Assessment: 2,500 word essay and bibliography

#### **What career opportunities are available to me?**

Studying English Literature opens up a wide range of career opportunities including journalism, teaching, law and media. This course also develops communication and critical thinking skills.