

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

Head of department: Dr S J Barker  
Examination board: OCR H472



*“If you’re interested in developing your own **writing** skills as well as **analysing** the work of others, enjoy reading challenging material and having a strong input into classroom discussions about texts, then English Literature is the subject for you. You’ll need to value your own **independent** ideas and research as there is a strong theme of individual learning running through the course.”*



## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

English is an intellectually challenging subject which provides plenty of scope for your own ideas and imagination. The skills of close reading, analysis and communication are also vital for life beyond school and beneficial to any course you may decide to pursue at university. If you are looking for a subject that is less teacher-centred, provides scope for your own ideas and requires more independent work patterns – you will benefit from it. In the words of one Professor of English: ‘you develop the insight of an artist, the analytical precision of a scientist, and the persuasiveness of a lawyer’.

You will have the chance to study some of the finest products of the creative imagination and to develop your own informed, personal response to them.

We pride ourselves as a Department in taking advantage of the best cultural enrichment opportunities available: there are regular theatre visits across the country. A Sixth Form Reading Group meets for the most committed students to read, weekly for a year, beyond the syllabus.

## ASSESSMENT

- Two exams, each worth 40%.
- One unit of coursework worth 20%.
- **Drama and Poetry pre-1900** exam will include questions about a Shakespeare play, with the second half of the exam asking you to compare one drama with one poetry text.
- The second exam (e.g. **Women in literature, The Gothic, American Literature 1880-1940**) will ask you to compare two texts and will also require you to assess an unseen passage.
- **Coursework** is in the format of two essays, one focusing on the close reading of a passage of one text and the second compares the other two.

## FUTURE PLANS

The analytical and communication skills developed through the course are transferable to the widest range of careers and Higher Education opportunities. English is a highly respected A Level, welcomed by university departments and employers (not just for Arts courses: some of our most successful and committed students have gone on to courses in Medicine, Chemistry, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine).

## TO APPLY

Grade 7-9 in English Literature at GCSE is desirable. It is important that you enjoy reading and engaging with some demanding literature.