

# English Literature

**Course description:** In our course—*Love Through the Ages*- the theme of love, one of the most central themes in literature, is explored across time. Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, English Literature encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. The course enables students to investigate and connect texts, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. We encourage students to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses. Studying texts diachronically (across a very broad time period) is at the centre of the specification, which means students are required to read widely across a range of texts and connect them across time and topic— exploring everything from Medieval to modern day texts.

## **Course content:**

- An Introduction to the *History of English* and the key *Literary Movements*
- Close examination of Shakespeare's tragedy, *Othello*
- Close examination of Emily Bronte's, *Wuthering Heights* with comparison to Scott Fitzgerald's, *The Great Gatsby*
- Close examination of *Pre-1900s Love Poetry*
- Close analysis of a range of *unseen extracts*.
- **Wider Reading Project** in preparation for the NEA

## **Assessment:**

- **Paper 1** (1 hour and 30 minutes/Closed Book/ 50% of AS): Close Analysis of an extract from *Othello* (25 marks) and close analysis of one poem from the Pre-1900 Anthology of Love Poetry (25 marks).
- **Paper 2** (1 hour and 30 minutes/Open Book/50% of AS): Close analysis of an unseen prose extract (25 marks) and comparison of *Wuthering Heights* and *The Great Gatsby* (25 marks).

## **Recommended textbook / revision guide:**

- We encourage students to purchase the *York Notes Study Guides* for all core texts.
- Further support can also be found with the **Cambridge or Oxford A/AS Level English Literature A for AQA Student Book (A Level (AS) English Literature AQA)**.