

# ENGLISH

## WHY STUDY ENGLISH *at* STONYHURST?

*English is first and foremost an exploration of human nature, culture and behaviour.*

### MORE THAN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

#### A college with a rich literary heritage

Stonyhurst alumni include many significant authors, including Sherlock Holmes creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; Irish poet and signatory of the Irish Proclamation of Independence, Joseph Mary Plunkett; and Jesuit priest and poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins.

We will help you to develop and share your individual gifts and talents, and to learn from others and to reach your full potential as both a student and a person, preparing you for a successful future.

### WHY ENGLISH?

When Gerard Manley Hopkins was at Stonyhurst, he wrote,  
*“What you look hard at seems to look hard at you.”*

The study of English is an opportunity to learn how to look hard at both external and internal influences on language and literature. Both of the English courses offered at Stonyhurst allow you to compare the ways in which a range of writers’ work can be analysed. You will have the opportunity to develop skills of interpretation and argument, analysing the way meaning is influenced by language, form and structure, in addition to

considering how cultural context can support different readings of literature.

During both of the courses, we will give you opportunities to:

- ✓ Read widely, independently and critically, a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- ✓ Become familiar with the traditions of English literature.
- ✓ Learn to express your literary response in speech and writing.
- ✓ Develop as a confident, independent and reflective reader and speaker.
- ✓ Use critical concepts and literary and linguistic terminology with understanding.
- ✓ Understand, appreciate and evaluate the interpretations of others.
- ✓ Use your knowledge and understanding of individual texts to explore comparisons between them
- ✓ Appreciate the significance of cultural and historical influences on and context of texts and writers.

Overall, we provide essential training in the skills of close reading, analysis and essay-writing. This will give you a firm base of skills and knowledge if you intend to study Arts or Humanities at a higher level; or add much-valued breadth to your study of the Sciences. A strong emphasis on class discussion encourages the independent exploration of ideas, which will prepare you for studies at college or university.



## WHAT DO I NEED?

- ✓ A willingness to read widely
- ✓ The determination to succeed in a challenging subject
- ✓ Grade 7-9 at GCSE Language and/or Literature

## WHERE COULD IT TAKE ME?

Studying English is an obvious choice for those of you who want to pursue a university course in a humanities area and for a future career where written communication plays a major part, such as:



## WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

- ✓ Clinics – offered across the week.
- ✓ Online resources – Free access to The English Review and E Magazine.
- ✓ Passionate, dedicated teaching from a faculty of energetic and experienced teachers.

## COURSE ENRICHMENT

- ✓ **Stonyhurst College Literary Festival** – A celebration of creative writing spanning two days with talks and workshops delivered by published authors and university lecturers.
- ✓ Where possible, **trips to see productions** (stage and screen), and guest lecturers at Stonyhurst will provide enjoyable and engaging enrichment.
- ✓ **Schools' Challenge** – A national quiz competition for schools following the format of University Challenge.
- ✓ **Creative writing competitions** – spread throughout the year.



Watch  
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code for more  
information on  
the subject

## WHAT COURSES ARE ON OFFER?

### A LEVEL ENGLISH CIE (CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS)

- ✓ **Component 1 – Drama and Poetry**  
One play and one collection of poems (Examples include Shakespeare, Arthur Miller, Wole Soyinka; and for poetry, Robert Browning, Gillian Clark, Owen Sheers.)
- ✓ **Component 2 – Prose and Unseen**  
One prose text (novel or short stories) and one close reading exercise (Examples include Andrea Levy's *Small Island*, EM Forster's *Howard's End*, and *Stories of Ourselves* (anthology).
- ✓ **Component 3 – Shakespeare and Drama**  
Two drama texts, one of which will be Shakespeare (Examples include *The Winter's Tale*, *Richard II*, Athol Fugard's *Township Plays*, Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* and Tom Stoppard's *Indian Ink*.)
- ✓ **Component 4 – Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose**  
A variety of texts for both poetry and prose. One of each will be studied. (Authors include Chaucer, Dickens, Emily Dickinson, Austen, Milton, Hardy, Woolf, Atwood, Spender.)

### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (STANDARD / HIGHER LEVEL)

- ✓ External Assessment Paper 1 - Guided Textual Analysis
- ✓ An analysis of unseen literary passages, from two different text types, each accompanied by a question.
- ✓ External Assessment Paper 2 – Comparative Essay A comparative essay based on two pieces of literature studied in the course.
- ✓ Internal Assessment - Individual Oral.
- ✓ A 10-15 minute prepared oral response to one two literary texts, which you will study in class.
- ✓ Internal Assessment - Essay (Higher Level only).
- ✓ An analytical essay on one text by one same author, or a literary text or work studied during the course. The essay must be 1,200-1,500 words in length.

Our IB Diploma Programme is designed to produce highly-educated all-rounders who embrace social responsibility, intercultural awareness, and a duty to local and global communities to make an increasingly complex world a better place.

[www.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk)

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