ENGLISH LITERATURE

AWARDING BODY - Edexcel
LEVEL OF COURSE - A Level

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDY

- GCSE English or English Literature at Grade B or higher
- An average GCSE Score of 6.0 or higher

WHO WOULD SUIT THE COURSE?

Someone with an enquiring mind who is interested in exploring the human species at its most passionate, loving, vengeful and violent and everything in-between.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

Law, Politics, Management, Publishing, Teaching, Lecturing, Marketing, Film/Media, Journalism.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is a dynamic and thrilling adventure into the world of Literature that is so immensely dominant a force in our culture that it infiltrates songs, comic shows, daily conversations and even weather reports.

The skills that you develop are wide-ranging and far reaching and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Diverse analytical skills
- Evaluative thinking
- Synthesis and comparison of ideas and language
- The ability to understand how context influences our creation of texts and our understanding of them
- How to write critically, presenting your own argument whilst taking the ideas of others into consideration
- How use critical essays and ideas, including schools of literary criticism such as Feminism and Marxism

You will study four units. Unit 4 is the coursework - an open study of two texts.

1. A study of drama: 30% of the final mark. This is a study of Shakespeare’s tragic masterpiece, *Hamlet*, and Oscar Wilde’s comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest*. You will use text, film and theatre visits to explore these dynamic works. This will be assessed in a 2 hour 15 minute exam with a section A and section B.

2. A study of prose: 20% of the final mark. Emily Bronte’s wild, ravishing Yorkshire moors reign in the novel *Wuthering Heights*, which is symbolises the epitome of passionate love and its antithetical burning rage. Alongside this is the deeply thought-provoking *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, exploring how conflict has affected the lives of ordinary Afghan people. This will be assessed in a one hour, comparative examination.

3. A study of poetry: 30% of the final mark. A collection of modern poetry will be studied in preparation for examination on unseen modern poetry. The evocative and moody Romantic Poets will be studied in all their emotive power in preparation for examination. This will be assessed in a 2 hour 15 minute exam with a section A and a section B.

4. Coursework: 20% of the final mark. This is an open choice study of two texts.

Specification:

TEACHERS’ PEN PORTRAITS:

Miss Kent
I have a BA Honours degree in English Literature and Philosophy. From my childhood I have read avidly and am deeply passionate about Literature. I fully believe that Literature takes us on a journey to emotional, historical and futuristic places that we could never reach otherwise. Literature enables us to become more knowledgeable, thoughtful, worldly people. Literary references pervade our society – they are in Star Trek films, on comedy shows and even the weather presenters quote Keats every autumn. Studying English Literature enables you to connect with many people through a shared experience in a way that nothing else does. These beliefs fuel the enthusiasm with which I teach. One of my recent students said to me: “This subject has changed me as a person more than anything else. Now I think about everything more deeply.” I think this sums up the power of studying English Literature and I can’t wait to work with you!

Miss Turner
I studied English Literature at the University of Manchester where I specialised in the study of postcolonial literature. I have always loved reading for the imaginative and deeply personal journey that literature can take us on. I believe that the study of literature is vitally important in our understanding of culture and society. I love reading across a range of genres, from crime fiction to historical drama to light-hearted beach holiday fare! English Literature combines highly academic study with a genuine insight into the lives of others, which I find fascinating. I love teaching A Level English and find I am continually surprised by the level of fresh and original insight students bring to texts I have often studied and taught many times.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS THINK …

“It’s a really interesting subject which allows you to explore and develop your understanding of many different social aspects. It’s complex and intellectual.”
“The teachers are really enthusiastic about the subject and they help you learn.”
“It’s cracking!”
“English Literature makes you think.”
“We experience a broad spread of literature, which encourages us to use a wide range of skills.”
“English Literature is useful for loads of degrees”
“English Literature makes my week!”
“The teaching staff provide a lot of support.”
“It’s interesting because you get to study a variety of different books.”
“It’s my favourite!”
“The teachers are inspiring.”