

Academic Requirements

A love of literature and reading is the essential pre-requisite for the course. A*, A and B grades at GCSE English and English Literature provide the best foundation for success at A level, along with the commitment to wider reading, which will develop your literary criticism, and a real enjoyment of literature. Sensitivity to texts, clarity of thought and the ability to follow through a well-supported logical argument are desirable. A love of theatre and film would similarly contribute to your work.

Course Specification:

We began teaching the new OCR AS/A level GCE English Literature syllabus (H071/H471) in September 2008.

AS students will study the poetry of William Wordsworth, and the novel *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte for examination in June 2009. They will also study the following coursework texts: *Death of a Naturalist*, *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit*, *The History Boys*.

Set texts for the A2 modules in 2009-10 will include Shakespeare's *Othello*, Marlowe's *Dr Faustus* and Chaucer's *The Pardoner's Tale*. Coursework texts have yet to be confirmed.

Personal response and the refining of ideas through discussion are essential to the full appreciation of the set books, and make for lively lessons. Regular practice in essay writing and literary criticism also develops language skills and power of analysis. These are supported whenever possible by a wide range of activities including theatre visits, play readings, video recordings, workshops and each student's individual reading programme.

Why English Literature?

By developing a student's ability to analyse, provide evidence, make value judgements and express ideas clearly, the A level English Literature course is an excellent foundation for a whole range of careers and has proved an asset in areas such as Law, Business, Science, Social Sciences and the Media.

A Student's Perspective

'A level is such a leap from GCSE, as there is a lot more freedom in terms of ideas. Discussions have lasted entire lessons and we have had the opportunity to properly explore all varying avenues of thought.'

'I can't think of a better way to spend my time than reading and studying books that cover many different genres and explore a variety of themes. The discussions in class always seem to make things easier and can sometimes last for a whole lesson. Whether you enjoy reading, discussing or writing essays, English Literature lessons manage to make all three fun!'