

English Literature

GCSE – AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs Perry

What's it all about?

English Literature students will be expected to read and analyse a selection of literature from differing genres: prose fiction, plays and poetry and will cover a range of different eras from the 19th century novel to the contemporary poet. As with English Language, students will identify and interpret themes, ideas and characters; analyse language, structure and form and use evidence to support and justify their point of view and inferences.

Who should take it?

All students will study the English Literature course – it is a core subject.

What will I learn on this course?

Students will engage with several texts: Macbeth (Shakespeare), Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (Stevenson), Blood Brothers (Russell) or An Inspector Calls (Priestley), and poems from a given anthology.

Breakdown of the course:

Paper 1: Shakespeare (Macbeth) and the 19th-century novel (Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde)
1 hour 45 minutes (40% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Modern texts (Blood Brothers or An Inspector Calls) and poetry (from an anthology and unseen poetry).
2 hours and 15 minutes (60% of GCSE)

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed in examination/timed conditions throughout their learning journey in English Literature to ensure that they can apply the necessary skills and work under pressure within time constraints. As the course is 100% examination, it is crucial that students become comfortable with this form of assessment.

What do our current students say?

- “English Literature is most definitely one of the most interesting subjects available. It offers you the opportunity to learn about a range of authors, poets and playwrights.”
- “If you are keen to explore texts, English Literature is for you. If you enjoy being critical, English Literature is for you. If you want to go on a journey, English Literature is most definitely for you.”
- “We have amazing teachers who help us to get through our work more easily; they present it in a way which relates and engages us all.”

Is there anything else I need to know?

The texts that students study will be provided by the school. However, students often choose to purchase their own copy of these texts and the revision guides that accompany them.

Who can I contact for further information?

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