

# English and English Literature GCSE

English and English Literature are compulsory in Years 10 and 11. A qualification in English is essential for entry into most courses of Higher Education and a minimum standard is required for many 16+ employment opportunities.

## Aims of the course

To develop students' understanding and ability in the areas of:

**Reading - Writing - Speaking & Listening**



## Skills Required

The skills required at GCSE build on those taught in KS3 and will include:

- The ability to interpret unseen texts and support interpretations with close textual reference.
- The demonstration of a comprehensive knowledge of whole Literature Texts in response to long essay questions.
- The capacity to comment critically on a writer's use of language, form and structure.
- The ability to write both creative and discursive responses in exam conditions which achieve a high level of written accuracy.
- The ability to speak clearly and fluently in a formal context.

## English Language

Students will sit two final examinations at the end of Year 11, both lasting 1hr 45 minutes. Sources for the reading questions will be literary fiction, non-fiction and literary non-fiction texts; they will be drawn from the 19th, 20th and 21st century. All reading material will be unseen.

Writing tasks will be linked to the reading content of the exam papers and will require students to write both descriptively and discursively. Greater emphasis and reward is now provided for the accuracy of students' writing in terms of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## English Literature

Students will again sit two final examinations but this time they will be 1hr 45 minutes and 2hrs 15 minutes in length.

The shorter paper will examine a play by Shakespeare and a novel written in the nineteenth century chosen from a prescribed list. Students will respond to extracts from these texts and then will discuss texts as a whole. This exam will be closed book. The longer exam demands responses to a modern drama, unseen poetry and poetry studied from an anthology.

Students will follow the AQA GCSE syllabus for both Language and Literature and, as with all exam boards, there is no tiering.

**Contact:** Mr M Oxley, Curriculum Team Leader for English