



English Literature

Room: LRC

What the Students Say

"You've got to enjoy reading and challenge. It's all about BIG ideas!"

"I liked the new direction taken from GCSE: the texts we study are relevant to our lives".

"Your own interpretations are valued".

"The Color Purple is the best book I have ever read. It has changed my life – honestly!!"

What Is This Course About?

Principally, English Literature promotes the development of a set of skills, which are both highly valued by universities and employers and useful in life. Not least of these is the ability to analyse, to read for meaning. In this, you will be building on much of what made you successful at GCSE, but with a wider range of interesting texts. We study the social and political contexts of texts and critical interpretations rather than focusing on one interpretation. This encourages you to think critically and write critically from a wide range of perspectives.

We are also in the business of improving your ability and confidence in communication. We will help you to express your ideas with precision and passion, whether it is in group discussions or in creative or analytical writing.

Crucially, the 'non-exam assessment' (or coursework) element of this course is a huge invitation to explore and enjoy independent learning.

What Will I Learn?

The course we follow is AQA's Love Through the Ages. We begin by studying two novels – Alice Walker's fascinating study of African American life in rural Georgia, 'The Color Purple', and F. Scott Fitzgerald's bewitching tale of a lost love re-found in 'The Great Gatsby'. These novels are linked to our subsequent texts, Tennessee Williams' powerful drama, 'A Streetcar Named Desire', and our poetry anthology.

In Year 13, we study arguably Shakespeare's greatest play, the tragedy of Othello, together with short stories and the poetry of our former poet laureate, Carol Anne Duffy. We feel that we have selected a mix of texts that will challenge and engage any student, any gender and we have not yet had a student say that they didn't enjoy the texts. The only debate is over which one they like best.

The non-exam/coursework unit allows for a free choice of texts and a guided range of topics. A chance to explore the literature that you're passionate about! You choose two texts, and you decide what question you will answer. It really is independent study and



will be a useful taster of the kind of learning you will experience if you choose to progress to university.

Where Will It Take Me?

Studying English Literature can be a pathway to a diverse range of careers. Every professional career demands critical and analytical thought, originality and strong communication skills and these are all developed throughout the course.

English Literature is one of the Russell Group of University's listed 'enabling subjects', those which are 'required' more often than others...therefore leaving open a wide range of courses for you to study at university.

A recent Guardian Careers article shows how there's an enormous range of jobs available for graduates whose academic background is in English: "After asking our followers what jobs they have done following their degree, we also had a pretty diverse response: copywriter, PR, journalist, marketing, advertising, animator, designer, public speaker, teacher, curator, TV producer. And that's not even the full list".

What Other Opportunities Exist Outside of Class?

Exploring literature beyond the classroom is really important to us and we often make text choices based on opportunities for theatre or film experiences. For example, in recent years we've seen 'We Need To Talk About Kevin' at the cinema and 'Miss Julie', Hedda Gabler, Midsummer Night's Dream, A Winter's Tale. Othello and Ghosts in the theatre.

We entrust our subject reps to seek out extra-curricular opportunities, and we are always open to new possibilities for theatre visits and conferences. You can make a suggestion and make it happen.