



## A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

### What does the course involve?

This new AQA linear course focuses upon reading texts within a shared context. It encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Students are encouraged to develop their interest in, and enjoyment of, English Literature through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender. You will begin by looking at how Literature in English has developed across time- how different genres and styles have developed and how historical events and periods have influenced what writers write about and how they write. We look at a number of texts from key periods and movements, including a series of poems from across time which deal with love, obsession and relationships. You will then move on to studying core texts in depth, exploring topics such as attitudes to women, race, social class, love, jealousy and obsession in Shakespeare's 'Othello' and Fitzgerald's 'the Great Gatsby'. In year 13 the focus shifts to Literature based around World War One, including a contemporary novel and poetry, and a modern play. You will explore how the experience of war is presented from a number of perspectives – including German and modern perspectives- and how both men and women responded to the war at home and on the Frontline.

A Level Literature encourages you to respond personally and critically to texts, evaluating writers' methods and building up a sense of argument which explores how writers present ideas and how they have been influenced by their cultural, historical and literary context. It also encourages you to broaden your understanding of critical approaches to literature by considering how critical perspectives such as feminism, post-colonialism or psychoanalytical approaches might deepen our understanding of texts. It also allows you to develop a wide range of communication and cognitive skills such as critical reading, textual analysis and evaluation, and the ability to structure and develop convincing arguments in both writing and through discussion, all of which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

### What exams and coursework are involved?

The two year 'A' Level course is composed of two exam papers (one focused on 'Love Through the Ages' and one on 'WWI and its Aftermath'), and one Non-exam Assessment- coursework.

#### 'A' Level Paper One - Love Through the Ages

This involves the study of poetry, Shakespeare and prose texts linked by the broad theme of 'Love Through the Ages'. Texts studied include 'Othello' and 'The Great Gatsby', as well as an AQA Anthology of Poetry (pre-1900).

#### 'A' Level Paper Two - Texts in Shared Contexts Exam: WWI and its Aftermath

This exam option allows students to explore literature arising out of WWI, but extends this period to allow reflection on the full impact of the war that reverberates up to the present day. It involves the study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama. Texts studied will include: a novel, 'All Quiet on the Western Front'; a poetry anthology, 'Up the Line to Death'; and a play, 'The Wipers Times' by Ian Hislop.

## **'A' Level Non-exam Assessment: Independent Critical Study – Texts Across Time-Coursework**

Students write an in-depth comparative critical study of two texts (one of which must be a pre-1900 text) on a theme of their choice. This allows you to study two texts of your choice in detail, exploring a theme which interests you and using this to develop your analysis and research skills. It gives you the chance to experience what researching and writing an extended essay might be like at university and gives you the chance to build invaluable skills for future study.

### **What are the entry qualifications?**

Students require at least a level 6 in GCSE English Literature and a 5 in GCSE Language, together with a love of reading. A level 6 in both Literature and Language at GCSE is desirable.

### **What could I do after completing the course?**

Literature is a valued A Level because it helps students to hone their communication, analysis and critical thinking skills and these are essential in a wide range of careers. It is also a good choice if you want to study a degree in certain subjects which aren't offered at A Level – such as law - or if you aren't sure which degree course you want to pursue. This is because English Literature is a valuable qualification for any career that requires good oral and written skills, an understanding of others and a sensitivity to people's needs and contexts. Such careers would include Acting and Dramatic Arts, Advertising, Broadcasting, Business, the Civil Service, Journalism, Publishing, Law, Politics and Government, Management and Administration, Media and Television, Personnel Work, Publishing, Teaching and Social Work to name but a few. However, most employers are likely to value the skills required to achieve an English Literature A Level. Many former students have gone on to study English Literature at University, and many more have found the A Level course a valuable preparation for a huge range of other courses and careers.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: MR C LUKER OR MR M WILSON**