

A-Level English Literature

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one." ~

George R.R. Martin

Against the criteria put forward in AQA Specification A (7712), our curriculum has been carefully designed to build upon the foundations of GCSE Literature, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of our shared literary heritage. We seek to embed skills of robust and perceptive literary analysis, as we explore key aspects of literature both across time and between texts in shared contexts, all the while supporting our students to become culturally, emotionally and intellectually adept members of society.

Intent

Our curriculum is sequenced to help students develop their knowledge and skills over time, building on their sense of the literary canon established at KS4 to enrich and deepen their understanding of key concepts, mediums and works. Through the study of challenging and engaging texts, both pre and post-1900, students will develop their own critical voice, whilst adeptly framing their responses through the prism of established critical perspectives. The diachronic nature of the year twelve curriculum will allow them to gain an appreciation of our own rich and varied literary heritage. In year thirteen, students will be exposed to an array of multicultural writers within the postmodern literary landscape, to help them enrich their own cultural capital and gain an understanding of life experiences and cultures different from their own. This second, synchronic, unit will enable students to build on their established knowledge of the literary canon in year twelve, and trace common themes, forms and structures across 20th and 21st century thinking.

Implementation

All students will be taught by passionate practitioners, whose aim is to foster forthright and robust critical debate within the classroom. Teachers will use their expertise in scaffolding, planning and high level feedback, to enable students of a range of abilities to reach their full potential.

Building on the success of the English KS3 and KS4 curriculum, our students will:

- work both collaboratively and independently on tasks, helping them to consolidate and develop their reading and writing skills.
- broaden their understanding of contexts of production and reception, making meaningful links to other texts, genres and the worldview that framed them.
- enhance their verbal fluency through rigorous discussion, allowing students the opportunity to elaborate and demonstrate understanding.
- utilise a comprehensive range of strategies, such as peer and self-assessment, seminar and lecture delivery to prepare students for higher education.

With regard to the latter, we are very proud of our track record in engaging higher education establishments to complement the stated aims of the course. We combine the latest technologies in video conferencing and outreach visits to encourage students to visualise and prepare for life in a higher education setting.

Impact

The curriculum will allow *all* pupils to build upon prior knowledge and correct misconceptions over the course of their study. This will enable them to read and write critically, with sound understanding and informed viewpoints.

By the end of KS5, students will be able to:

- be proficient in expression, speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.
- form carefully structured arguments and evaluative comparisons.
- make close, concise and considered reference to how writers shape meaning throughout texts with a greatly expanded repertoire of literary, linguistic and structural devices.
- confidently express how texts are shaped by contexts of production and reception.
- apply a broad range of criticism, from new historicism to eco-criticism and queer theory.
- understand the cultural and social significance and impact of the English literary canon upon world literature.

These core skills will be essential in preparation for their final assessment, as well as preparation for component C (Non-exam assessment of 20%). Together we will work alongside students in the acquisition of the above, to ensure their success and confidence in the future.