

Subject:

English Literature

English Literature Intent:

The English Department aims to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Students will read a wide range of classic literature and make connections across these texts, reading in depth, critically and evaluatively demonstrating the ability to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas, while acquiring and using a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

Our Exam Board is: AQA

The Big Questions...

Year 10	Year 11
<p>Term 1: Modern Drama - JB Priestley An Inspector Calls Term 2: The 19th century Novel - Robert Louis Stevenson The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Term 3: AQA Anthology Poems Past and Present - Power and Conflict Term 3: Unseen poetry</p> <p>These who, when, where, what, why, how questions support the study of all literature texts: Who is the writer? How do their beliefs and lives increase our understanding? Who are the characters or voices in the text? Why has the writer constructed these characters – for what purpose? When or what era has the text been set? How does knowledge of this era increase our understanding? Where has the text been set? Why is this significant? What are the themes which are explored and developed in the texts? What is the narrative structure of the text? How does it increase our understanding? Why was the text written? Why is the message important then and now? How has the writer used language, form and structure to shape meaning?</p>	<p>Term 1: Shakespeare Macbeth OR Romeo and Juliet Term 2: Wider reading and revision Term 3: Exam practice and further preparation</p> <p>In addition to the who, when, where, what, why, how questions which underpin the study of all literature texts, we introduce different critical readings of the texts:</p> <p>For example: What is a feminist reading? How might it change our reading of Shakespeare? How might a Marxist reading affect our understanding of An Inspector Calls? How might the concept of Binary Opposition enhance our reading of The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde?</p>

What skills will I develop?

Students will have the opportunity to develop the following skills:
Reading comprehension and reading critically by distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text; comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context (where known), style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above.

How will I be assessed?

At key stage 4 work is assessed through GCSE type questions so that students can practise and refine the skills needed for each question. We also deliver weekly knowledge testing on Educake. Teacher feedback is given verbally, in books and on assessed work so that pupils can improve their understanding and refine their skills as they become more familiar with the different questions.
Examination: The GCSE course is 100% exam based and will involve two papers taken at the end of Year 11 assessing the texts and skills covered over the two years.
Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th century novel lasts 1 hour 45 mins
Paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry lasts 2 hours 15 minutes

What great resources can I use?

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx> A comprehensive overview of the content and skills required for success in English Literature specific to the AQA syllabus
- <https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free> is 5*! Select AQA for English Literature
- <https://getrevising.co.uk/> contains a range of useful materials created by teachers and students and graded and recommended by teachers using a 5 star rating
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff> Mr Bruff: a huge range of videos and links to cover every aspect of GCSE English Literature
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/dominicsalles> Mr Salles: similar range and standard to Mr Bruff

Three ways that parents/carers can help...

1. Immerse yourself in the different texts we study! Read other works by the these writers. Watch different adaptations of the set texts and if possible, go to see a performance of the plays or other works by the same author or from that same era
2. Become familiar with <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse> and the pages that support the study of AQA GCSE English Literature
3. Explore and revise all aspects of Elizabethan England, particularly William Shakespeare. Watch adaptations of the tragedies and comedies as well as documentaries focusing on this era