



## English Language & Literature

**This subject bridges the gap between language and literary study, offering you the best of both worlds.**

Students will analyse all kinds of texts from non-fiction articles and transcripts to some of the most influential works of literature which will be informed by a secure understanding of how language is constructed and how it works. You will study how writers use language in different contexts for an ever-shifting variety of audiences and purposes, in order to create distinctive styles. You will also have the opportunity to create your own original texts and reflect analytically upon your methods of composition.

In the first year, you will study three set texts (An AQA Anthology of non-fiction texts, one novel and a collection of poetry) and consider them through the themes of Remembered Places, Imagined Worlds and Poetic Voices.

In the second year, you will produce creative writing in response to a novel on the theme of Society and you will study a work of drama through the theme of Conflict. In addition to this, you will carry out an original analytical investigation into an issue/theme in language and literature. You will be encouraged in your own wider reading, and to develop your familiarity with the course authors by reading around the set texts.

English Language & Literature requires you to take a serious-minded interest in both stories and in language, developing a wide-ranging analytical vocabulary involving grammatical, rhetorical and structural techniques. You will, therefore, develop your analytical essay writing skills, but significant emphasis is also placed on developing your powers of independent research and of linguistic creativity.

A respected academic subject, English Language & Literature is often combined with other Humanities subjects like History and Politics, or with Media and Film Studies, but it also goes well with Social Sciences and with Languages - it is extremely flexible.

### **Future Study and Career Opportunities**

An A Level in English Language & Literature can lead to Higher Education opportunities in English, Creative Writing and Cultural Studies. English Language & Literature is extremely flexible in terms of supporting future careers: it can lead towards Journalism and the Media, but also towards Publishing, Law, Therapy, Advertising, as well as towards teaching and academic life.

## English Language

Why do we use the words 'princess' and 'madam' to describe someone who is being a nuisance, when the words 'prince' and 'sir' have only positive connotations? Can you explain the grammar of text messaging? Do you ever read newspaper headlines and consider how the writer conveys opinion?

English Language is a challenging and dynamic course that explores the links between language and gender, occupation, region and social groups, as well as giving you the basic tools of analysis that you need in order to understand how English works all around us. You will be learning about lexis, grammar, phonology, semantics and pragmatics

and making links across texts, as well as learning theories in order to deepen your understanding of language. You will learn how children acquire and develop their language, why we don't speak like Shakespeare anymore, and question the popular belief that language is in decline. In addition to this, you will have the opportunity to carry out your own Language Investigation and piece of Original Writing as part of your coursework.

### You will learn about:

- How texts can be compared and contrasted.
- How society influences language
- Different writing styles and techniques and how you can recreate them.
- Child Language Acquisition
- The influence parents might have on the way children learn to communicate
- Language Change
- Language Diversity
- Language and gender

### Future Study and Career Opportunities

Higher Education opportunities following successful completion of the course include English, Creative Writing and Cultural Studies.

An A Level in English Language will specifically support careers in Journalism, Marketing, Advertising, and Teaching, as well as being a recognised and valued qualification in a variety of other careers.



## English Literature

Do you have a love of reading and a critical mind? This demanding but rewarding course will encourage you to read a wide variety of British and American literature.

Texts currently studied cover both modern and classic periods, ranging from the 1600s to the 21st century. The best universities and high-powered professions, such as Law, prize the analytical skills this course will give you above many others. It fits well with other Humanities A Levels such as History and Social Sciences such as Sociology and Psychology. You will begin the course with the study of some of the most iconic literature in the English

language including prose, poetry and drama. This will build on your close analysis skills from GCSE and allow you to begin to interpret texts independently and offer alternative ideas and theories. Writers such as Shakespeare and Brontë, alongside many modern writers, will be studied. Independent study will also allow you to pursue a detailed and sustained analysis of an area of literature of particular interest to you in a piece of extended coursework, to develop original and creative responses to a range of literary texts.

The breadth of literature studied encourages you to become a critical reader and will give you the confidence to approach any text with an open mind and a wealth of knowledge.

### Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in English Literature can lead to Higher Education opportunities in courses such as English, Creative Writing and Cultural Studies, Careers such as Publishing, Advertising and Public Relations benefit from a qualification in English Literature.