Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

English Literature

Entry Requirement:

*GCSE English Literature, grade 6, **OR**, if not studied at GCSE, GCSE English Language, grade 6*

Awarding body: AQA

About the subject: A Level English Literature is a real process of discovery. If you love reading, you should relish the opportunity to spend two years exploring books – discussing them, analysing them and writing about them. You'll be introduced to a wide range of texts, including drama, fiction and poetry – from contemporary novels to literature written in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. You'll think about what makes people write, how different writers were influenced by their historical contexts, and how their books have been interpreted by readers at different times. You'll also have the chance to extend your own personal reading, experimenting with different authors and developing your tastes.

English Literature is highly regarded by employers and universities, as it demonstrates a high level of communication and analytical skills. It is an excellent foundation for a wide variety of careers, including education, law, journalism, politics, social work, publishing and the performing arts.

Assessment:

- **Unit 1**: Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy (2 hour 30 minute exam: 40% of A Level)

In this unit you will explore the major literary genre of tragedy – a genre that has its roots in the ancient world and has been reworked and reinterpreted by many authors since. You'll focus on drama, studying *King Lear* and Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman*. You'll also study Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, examining how aspects of tragedy are also present in novels.

- **Unit 2**: Texts and Genres: Elements of crime writing (3 hour exam: 40% of A Level)

In this unit, you will explore elements of a more modern genre: that of crime writing. This genre holds an enduring power over readers, due partly to our love of solving mysteries and working out 'whodunnit', but also to our fascination with the criminal mind. You'll look at two significant but very different crime novels: *Brighton Rock*, by Graham Greene, and *Atonement*, by Ian McEwan. You'll also examine a collection of poems, to see how poets at different times have dealt with the idea of crime and depicted villains, victims, guilt and punishment.

- **Unit 3**: Theory and Independence (Coursework: 3000 words: 20% of A-Level)

This unit is designed to allow you to read widely and to examine the texts you read from a range of different perspectives. You will be encouraged to explore as wide a range of texts as possible: fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction.