

Entry Requirement:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature **and** Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

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: Political and social protest writing (3 hour exam: 40% of A Level)

In this unit, you will explore elements of a more modern genre: that of political and social protest writing. How do writers use their work to question and challenge the views and values of society? You'll study three very different texts: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen and the poems of Tony Harrison.

- **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.