

GCSE English Literature

In Year 9 all students prepare for their English Language and English Literature GCSEs by studying a 20th century drama text, exploring 'unseen' poetry and enjoying Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet.'

English Literature, taken by all Key Stage 4 students, alongside English Language, is an exciting qualification. As well as equipping you with analytical and literacy skills required for employment and future study, it will help you to explore a selection of the many fantastic works of written English. You will experience different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations and extend your interest in, and enthusiasm for, Literature as you develop an understanding of the ways in which English Literature is such a rich and influential part of our curriculum.

Exam Board

The examination board is AQA More details are available at: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

You will:

- Learn how to read, study and appreciate novels, plays and poetry.
- Read novels, poetry and drama, including a text by Shakespeare, a modern play such as 'An Inspector Calls' or 'Blood Brothers' and a novel from another era, usually 'A Christmas Carol'.
- Learn how to analyse texts and the ways in which writers get their messages across to their audience.
- Discover ways of evaluating and comparing texts.
- Look at the contexts in which literary works are written and see the effect that this has on the finished piece.
- Cover Key Skills such as communication, ICT, problem solving, working with others and improving your own learning.

How Will I Be Assessed?

- 100% examination.
- Your final mark is based on two examinations taken at the end of Year 11.
- Paper 1 (40%) focuses on Shakespeare ('Romeo and Juliet' or 'Macbeth') and 'A Christmas Carol'
- Paper 2 (60%) is based on your reading of a **modern** play and questions on the poems in the AQA Power and Conflict cluster. The third section is a question on 2 poems you haven't read before.

What Might GCSE English Literature Lead To?

As well as leading to both English Literature and English Literature & Language A Levels, GCSE English Literature covers a wide range of skills required for other courses such as History, Philosophy and Law. It also gives skills required in everyday life such as the ability to read and understand complex texts, to write formally and to examine writers' viewpoints and biases.