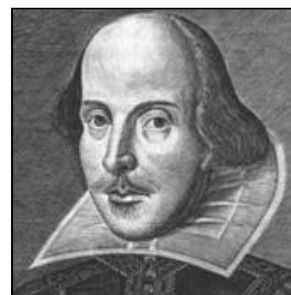




AS/A2 ENGLISH LITERATURE

Head of Department - Mrs J. Veale



EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

What do I need?

You will need at least one grade A and a grade B at GCSE in English Language and English Literature. You should enjoy English, be prepared to read a variety of texts and be able to write essays.

Why is English Literature so popular?

English is one of the most popular subjects at A level, partly because it is highly valued by both Universities and employers as a traditional academic subject of high status. In addition, the English department has a reputation for enabling students to achieve excellent results.

Why study English at A Level?

It combines easily with every subject, both Arts and Sciences, and encourages many skills valued by both employers and Higher Education:

- Presentation skills
- Logical argument
- Research and analysis
- Writing skills in every form
- Empathy
- Critical thinking
- Group work and debate.

Success in English is proven, with many students achieving outstanding results beyond expectations.

You will be joining a supportive and enjoyable learning environment and we are keen for you to reach and exceed your potential in English.

What happens in lessons?

Lessons are in groups of 10-20 allowing for a social and interactive approach to literature. This friendly environment allows for viewpoints to be shared in discussions. Improvisation and dramatised readings, DVDs, and analysis of various texts and extracts also feature in the course. Classes are taught jointly by two teachers.

What is the English Course?

At AS level, two modern novels, "A Clockwork Orange" and "Brighton Rock", and some interesting poems are studied in class for examination. The coursework is worth 40% of the final grade: one essay on scenes from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" and "Henry V" (2000 words), and a creative critical response (500 words).

At A2 level, a further two modern novels are studied for examination: "Spies" and "The Kite Runner", together with some poems. The coursework is again worth 40% of the final grade: one essay of 2500 to 3000 words; the choice of texts for this can be negotiated with teachers.

Both AS and A2 courses also feature some analysis of various poetry/prose extracts to prepare for the final examination paper.

You will research the background of writers, setting texts in their historical context, as well as appreciating their modern-day appeal. There may be opportunities to see performances at Stratford and local theatres, and to take part in workshops.

We also offer additional 'extension' lessons which allow students to explore aspects of English beyond A level. Those considering English-related degrees or studying at Oxbridge may find these sessions particularly helpful, but all are welcome.

Which Degree courses could I take with A level English?

English is highly regarded by Admissions Officers at Universities as excellent preparation for a very wide range of subjects:

- Obvious ones include Advertising, Journalism, Scriptwriting, Film Studies, Publishing, Business, Communication, and English Language and/or Literature;
- University Admission Tutors for Law have stated their enthusiasm for ability in English;
- Many medical schools prefer an AS in a traditional non-science subject such as English. Indeed, even at A2, English is valued as a contrasting third subject;
- Oxbridge entry not only requires excellent grades but ability to debate and think laterally: skills developed through continued English studies.

What are former English A level students now studying?

Old boys are now studying English at a variety of universities including Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Oxford and York, whilst others have embarked on degree subjects such as Art, Business, Creative Writing, Drama, Film Studies, Language, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, and Sciences.