

English Literature

Why choose to study English Literature?

- The course encourages independent study of a range of texts within a shared context. Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, students are encouraged to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood.
- The course allows you to pursue your own interests as well as providing texts from a range of genres and periods for detailed study.
- Theatre visits, poetry readings, study lectures, writing courses and other events are arranged to extend your experiences of the literary world, depending on the needs of the group.



Entrance Requirements

- You must be an enthusiastic and independent reader.
- English literature students need to be highly motivated and organised in order to work effectively and meet deadlines.
- The analytical skills developed at GCSE will enable you to explore texts. You will need to develop these and communicate your opinion in both written and oral presentation.
- The course demands personal research and the ability to pursue the historical and social context of texts using a variety of resources.
- A grade 5 in GCSE English and/or English literature (or equivalent) are essential.

Course Content & Learning Styles

- The course includes the study of poetry, prose and drama, from Chaucer to the present day. You will understand how writers use form, structure and language to shape meaning, by developing your skills in close, analytical reading.
- Students are encouraged to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses.
- Topics studied may include the literature of love, war literature, post 1994 literature, Shakespeare and comparison of texts from different time periods. Some exam texts will be unseen.
- Students have opportunities to choose some of the texts studied.



What skills will I develop?

- You will develop your ability to read analytically and interpret layers of meaning in texts; developing skills in writing closely-argued and lucidly-written essays.
- By the end of the course you should be able to respond to and evaluate texts, both familiar and unseen, showing an informed, critical approach.