

Course Titles: GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Further information available from: Mrs Cowley

All students study two separate qualifications: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. We ensure students follow a challenging and exciting programme.

We aim to:

- empower students, so that they have as much awareness and control as possible of the language they hear, read, speak and write;
- enable students to build on the skills and knowledge developed at Key Stage 3;
- follow the National Curriculum;
- engage the students so that they have a sense of pride in and enjoyment of their work;
- maintain a high standard in the study of English Language and English Literature.

All students will study a wide range of texts, from Shakespeare to a range of non-literary material, achieving a greater understanding of how writers use language. They will develop as writers, learning more about how to match their own language choices to the demands of audience, context and purpose.

Assignments will integrate the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Particular activities will vary according to the demands of the assignment and the needs of the group, but will be various and stimulating, including: role-play, group work, pair work, note-making and written activities. Deliberate practice is woven into our schemes of work, providing students with the opportunity to develop their writing skills, familiarise themselves with the rubric of exams, and build confidence gradually throughout the course.

Self-assessment, negotiation and debate are very important aspects of our teaching; we encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and aim to develop the skills necessary for them to become independent learners.

Further details about the specific texts and skills examined in both subjects can be found on the Edexcel website. Alternatively, Mrs Cowley would be happy to answer any questions.

All students will be entered for GCSE English Language: assessment is through terminal written examination. There are two papers. There is a prescriptive Spoken Language requirement to this course which is compulsory and has to be undertaken.

All students will be entered for GCSE English Literature. As is the case with all English Literature GCSEs, assessment is through terminal written examination: there are two equally weighted papers.

All students will be required to achieve a qualification in GCSE English Language for any post-16 course.

English lends itself to careers in education, law, politics, HR, marketing and social media, public speaking, writing and journalism but many of the skills are transferrable to many other fields.