

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE



Examination Board: AQA

Qualification/s awarded: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Brief details of the course:

During Years 10 and 11, it is expected that all pupils will follow a course leading to qualifications in English Language and English Literature. Both qualifications have been designed to inspire and motivate students. They will be accessible to the full range of students, as there will no longer be tiers of entry.

English Language

This subject will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods. It will encourage them to write clearly, coherently and accurately – students will become familiar with using a range of ambitious vocabulary, extensive punctuation and a variety of sentence styles.

English Literature

Pupils will study a range of literature over the two-year course, including drama, plays, novels and poetry. Some of the texts that students will study include William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, and Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*.

Spoken Language

This course runs alongside the English Language and English Literature courses. It will emphasise the importance of the wider benefits that speaking and listening skills have for students. Pupils will be given the opportunity to speak in a variety of contexts and will have to present an individual speech to their teacher and peers, answering questions when appropriate. This work will be certified by the examination board.

Pupil grouping: Pupils are set by ability in English.

Assessment: There is no controlled assessment for either qualification – 100% external exams.

In **English Language**, pupils sit two exams which test both reading and writing skills.

Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes and account for 50% of the marks each.

Paper 1 is focussed on a fictional extract and involves descriptive/narrative writing.

Paper 2 focusses 2 non-fiction texts (one modern; one significantly older) and discursive/transactional writing.

In **English Literature** there are two examinations:

Paper 1 examines pupils' understanding of a play by William Shakespeare (*Romeo and Juliet* or *Macbeth*) and the 19th century novel (*A Christmas Carol*).

The exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long and consists of two extract style questions, one for each text. This paper accounts for 40% of the overall marks awarded.

Paper 2 focuses on a modern drama (*An Inspector Calls* or *Blood Brothers*) and a poetry anthology containing fifteen poems about love/relationships or power/conflict. The exam is 2 hours 15 minutes and comprises of one essay question based on the set drama text, a comparison essay relating to the AQA poetry anthology, an unseen poetry analysis, and an unseen poetry comparison. The paper accounts for the remaining 60% of the overall marks awarded.

Benefits of the course:

The ability to communicate effectively is of paramount importance; we believe these courses will enable our pupils to develop a love for language and feel confident when writing, reading and speaking.