



GCSE English Language and English Literature

Overview

Your son/daughter will follow the **AQA GCSE** courses in **English Language** and **English Literature**.

In year 9 your son/daughter has experienced a range of texts including media and non-fiction, poetry, Shakespeare and prose. The ways in which they should approach these has been at the core of their learning in order to prepare them for the challenges of GCSE in which terminal examinations will draw on the skills we have embedded at KS3.

Year 10

Primarily the focus is on covering the content of the Literature syllabus beginning with exploration of the chosen Shakespeare text, moving on to the 19th Century novel and then culminating in Modern Prose and Poetry in the Spring and Summer terms. In addition, students will be familiarised with the format of the English language examination papers and the assessment objectives for these. Speaking and listening skills will continue to be developed and the Spoken Language assessment completed (this does not contribute to the final GCSE award for English Language but will be certified separately as either a **Pass, Merit or Distinction**).

Currently all students study **Romeo and Juliet** as their Shakespeare text, **A Christmas Carol** (19th century novel) and use the AQA anthologies (provided free of charge for all students by AQA) for modern prose and poetry study. We do recommend that, where possible, students have their own copies of these texts so that they can annotate them and use for independent study and revision at home. Please double check with your child's teacher before purchasing texts to ensure you are buying the correct one.

Year 11

The priority in Year 11 is to consolidate understanding of the set Literature texts and refine examination technique for both English Language and Literature. Students will increasingly be exposed to different literary and non-literary fiction texts and be asked to develop their ability to write creatively and to reflect different viewpoints in line with the requirements of the English Language Examinations.

Assessment

Assessment is continuous via timed pieces in class. At the end of Year 10 all students sit Paper 1 English and Paper 1 Literature as part of the Year 10 Summer examination programme. In Year 11 Paper 2 English Language and Literature will be examined in the Mock Examination period. In the Spring Term additional opportunities to sit these examinations in a formal environment will also be offered.

Ways to support study at home

Students should be encouraged to read as widely as possible including:

- Magazines (Saturday and Sunday supplements from the broadsheets are most beneficial)
- Newspapers (online as well as paper copies)
- Websites (such as the BBC, Channel 4 and charity websites)
- Biographies and autobiographies
- Leaflets and advertisements (looking out for the persuasive techniques which have been used)

A range of non-fiction material, including daily newspapers and their online versions are available in the school library.

Reading fiction for pleasure is key to success at GCSE; the examination rewards students who display a wide vocabulary, a sophisticated range of punctuation and strong awareness of audience. A KS4 reading list is available on the library website. Your son/daughter should speak to his/her English teacher or Mr Bates in the library for further guidance.

We recommend the CGP revision workbooks. There is also a comprehensive range of resources available through the English department Frog site which has external web links. BBC Bitesize has a range of revision activities for the Literature texts.

Independent Study

In year 11, we recommend that students spend time every week preparing for their examinations. This could be by re-reading their examination texts, revisiting and refining notes or completing timed tasks which are available from their class teacher and from the AQA website.

Learning quotations from the literature texts is also important as exams are all closed book.

For the poetry paper, students are advised to adopt a comparative approach (ie revise poems which have a common theme or technique) in addition to compiling their own glossary of poetic terms.

Weekly achievement sessions are held after school following the February half term break (day tbc). Achievement sessions are held in the Easter holidays subject to staff availability.

