

English Literature

Why this course is right for you

To study Literature is to study language, history, culture, and identity all at the same time.

Over the course of two years, you'll study poems, plays, and prose fiction that not only reflect the world that we live in today, but also offer us insights into the worlds in which others have lived.

This subject is for you if you love reading, and if you enjoy thinking about what an author hoped to convey, as well as how and why they've done that. It's also for you if you enjoy sharing your ideas about literature via essays and group discussions.

By studying Literature at A-Level, you'll gain a much deeper understanding of words, people, and the world. You'll also become a more logical, analytical thinker, and a more persuasive speaker and writer. In addition, you'll develop valuable research skills, which will be an asset to any degree level course or career.



Course Content

Exam board: Edexcel

Head of Department: Robin Rudd

Year 1 Topics

- A collection of 21st century poetry
- A 20th century play
- Two novels linked by genre/theme

Year 2 Topics

- A Shakespearean Tragedy
- A collection of historical poems
- Coursework comparing two texts

Assessment:

Three exams - poetry, prose, and drama - all sat at the end of Year 13, worth 80%.

One piece of coursework at the start of Year 13 comparing two texts, worth 20%.

Additional Experiences

The course is likely to be supplemented by a series of theatre trips and screenings, and there is the possibility of a residential trip to Stratford too.

Subject Entry Requirements

6 in English Literature

6 in English Language

And a love of reading!

Beyond A Levels

English Literature is a flexible and adaptable subject that opens up a wide range of degree and career choices.

Those who study Literature tend to emerge as accomplished readers, writers, and speakers, all of which are skills that are valued highly by university admissions officers and employers alike.

In addition, their ability to think critically and analytically equips them as much for a career in the sciences as it does a career in the arts.

Going further

If you think you might be interested in studying literature, you might want to:

- Visit Bristol Old Vic
- Listen to podcasts about Literature - e.g. In Our Time which has a number of episodes on A-Level set texts and authors.
- Read for pleasure - trying as many different genres and periods as possible!

"In the English language, there are great riches and treasures, and English literature offers a glorious inheritance which is open to all - there are no barriers, no coupons, no restrictions."

Winston Churchill