



English Literature Upper Sixth

Curriculum Intent

English Literature A's approach to the study of literature rests upon reading texts within a shared context. English Literature A encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Studying texts within a shared context enables students to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. English Literature A privileges the process of making autonomous meaning, encouraging students to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses.

Year 2 | Upper Sixth

Students will learn:-

Students study to themes: Love through the ages and Literature in Modern Times.

In Love through the ages, students study of three texts: Poetry, Love through the Ages pre 1900 Anthology and The Great Gatsby, and Othello.

Students will begin and complete their coursework which is a comparative essay on two texts. One text is pre 1900 and the other is a text of their choice. It cannot be text currently being studied.

What does excellence look like?

Students are able to present a unique response to a text and use literary concepts or terminology to express their ideas. This would include:

- Understanding a wide range of different interpretations
 - Being able to incorporate different interpretations into their own writing.
 - Have an ability to include reference to historical and literary contexts which is both common and subtle
- An ability to compare texts looking at how words and phrases shape meaning.

How will we assess impact?

Fortnightly written response with teacher feedback

Critical reading; Analysis and essay writing skills;

Create own exam questions; set question for peers;

Half-termly group presentation

International opportunities within the curriculum

In upper sixth, students study the theme of love and investigate how it is used throughout literature and across the ages. Similar to lower sixth, students are required to read a wide range of texts. Writers such as Henrik Ibsen, Scott Fitzgerald, etc. form a core part of the curriculum

Knowledge, understanding & skills

Students should be able to independently engage critically with a substantial body of texts. In this sense students should be able to:

- Analyse and respond to literary texts. Identifying key themes, understanding how language is used to create meaning
- Conduct independent research and incorporate scholarly opinion into their own ideas.
- Make independent connections between historical contexts and the text being studied.

How is homework used to enhance learning?

Students should conduct independent research on different ideas of love in:

- Elizabethan era
- The early 20th century
- Scott Fitzgerald
- An film adaptation of Othello

Students should also read:

- Beloved by Toni Morrison;
- Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit, Jeanette Winterson;
- Revolutionary Road, Richard Yates
- Birthday Letters, Ted Hughes



“You are your best thing” Toni Morrison, “Beloved”