

Roundwood Park
School
English Department
Post 16 Information



Why Study English Literature?



“We don’t read and write poetry because it’s cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we say alive for.”

Dead Poets Society

Why Study English Literature?



- Studying Literature allows you to engage with what it is to be human
- It allows you to engage with a range of concepts and ideologies that relate to your other subjects
- You will develop your debating skills and engage with others respectfully and empathetically
- You will learn how to view texts from different perspectives and learn that there is always more than one way to explore something
- You will develop analysis skills, invaluable for whatever course or route you take in the future
- You learn how to structure essays effectively and articulate your ideas clearly
- Quality teaching from an experienced and passionate team



“Just when you think you know something, you have to look at it in another way. Even though it may seem silly or wrong, you must try.”

Dead Poets Society

What do I study?



- We cover the Eduqas A Level specification
- The course is split into 4 parts, which will be covered over the two years of KS5
- We cover a range of forms and texts, by diverse authors that cover topics that are still relevant today and to appeal to everyone

What do I study?



Component One: Poetry

This is split into two halves:

Section A: Poetry Pre 1900

We study Christina Rossetti's poetry.

There is one question exploring the use of language in a named poem.

There is a longer question exploring a theme across her work – for this we form links between context, critical opinions and her writing.

Section B: Poetry Post 1900

We study the work of Philip Larkin and Carol Ann Duffy.

This is one question, where you compare the works of the two poets, consider alternative interpretations, critical opinions and context.

What do I study?



Component Two: Drama

This is split into two halves:

Section A: Shakespeare

We study *Hamlet* or *The Tempest*.

There is one question exploring the use of language in a specific section of the text.

There is a longer question exploring a theme explored throughout the text as a whole— for this we form links between context, critical opinions and Shakespeare's writing.

Section B: *Drama Pre and Post 1900*

We study *The Duchess of Malfi* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

This is one question, where you compare a theme throughout which runs through the two texts, consider alternative interpretations, critical opinions and context and how this has an impact.

What do I study?



Component Three: Unseen Texts

This is split into two halves:

Section A: Prose

We study literature from the period 1918 – 1939.

There is one question exploring the use of language in an unseen extract from this time period.

You will be given two supporting extracts and explore this piece of literature within context and by applying critical theory.

Section B: Unseen Poetry

You will be given a choice of two poems, and you get to explore the use of writer's methods in your poem and how they convey their ideas.

What do I study?



Component Four: NEA Novel Study Pre and Post 2000

For this part of the course you get to explore a text in depth, select a partner text to compare with it and go through the process of planning and writing an essay on a topic that you are interested in.

We start with the text *The Color Purple* as your pre 2000 text and build up from there.

What are lessons like?



A Level Literature lessons have a blend of:

- Class discussion
- Reading and analysing texts
- Exploring critical theory and critics' opinions and how they apply
- Learning how to plan essays and express yourself with an academic voice



“When you read, don’t just consider what the author thinks, consider what you think.”

Dead Poets Society

What do our students say?



I am really happy I chose English because the texts are amazing and so engaging. The class discussions make the novels and plays even more engaging and the themes involved bring out passionate discussions. I love it!

What do our students say?



I love that English opens up such interesting and important conversations between the class and teachers. It is such a supportive environment and the texts bring up a range of issues which we can openly discuss as a group.

What do our students say?



I love the classes and working as a group to explore the texts – English is my favourite class ever! The teachers are all so lovely and supportive.

What do our students say?



English Literature has the best content since starting subjects at A Level, I've only grown to love it more. It's a great experience and anyone considering it, should definitely take it.

What do our students say?



English Literature is definitely the most enjoyable A Level I've chosen. The classes are so much fun and the texts are far better than the ones at GCSE. I would recommend it to anyone considering it as it benefits me in all my lessons.

What do our students say?



English Literature is incredible! It is one of the best subjects, I love it!

How is this going to benefit me?



- Literature is viewed as a 'classic' A Level and considered as academically rigorous by universities
- You will have a wider understanding of the ways in which people express themselves and texts can express the mood of a generation
- You will learn how to problem solve, plan and approach a task in a creative way
- You will learn to think critically and form your own opinions
- Essay writing skills are always valuable!
- You will always have something interesting to say!
- Our students have gone on to apply for excellent universities!

What skills do I need to have?



- An enquiring mind and the desire to see the world in a different way
- A passion for and determination to acquire knowledge
- A commitment and responsibility for your own learning



“No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world.”

Dead Poets Society