

6th Form Courses

ENGLISH LITERATURE



- How do authors make a reader have a strong emotional response to a character?
- Why is Shakespeare considered a literary genius?
- How does our view of society shape our understanding of literary texts?

By studying English Literature, you will be able to answer all these questions and more!

“Stories you read when you’re the right age never quite leave you. You may forget who wrote them or what the story was called, but if a story touches you it will stay with you, haunting the places in your mind that you rarely ever visit.”

Neil Gaiman

A Level English Literature (Edexcel)

What is the course like?

In A Level English Literature you will look at a range of literary texts, from a variety of genres spanning over 400 years. You will participate in discussion and debate to explore how texts work, how they relate to the world of the author and the world we live in now.

Whilst being an essay based subject, these discussions will be vital in enabling you to develop your own views, also considering the viewpoints of literary critics and readers throughout the ages.

Course content

Paper 1: Drama – ‘King Lear’ (Shakespeare) and ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ (Tennessee Williams)

Paper 2: Prose – ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ (Margaret Atwood) and ‘The War of the Worlds’ (H.G. Wells)

Paper 3: Poetry – ‘Poems of the Decade’ and selected poems by John Keats

Non-examined unit: Comparison of two texts of your choice, one pre-1900. Within these genres students will study how characters are developed, themes, symbolism, literary criticism such as psychoanalysis and feminism, as well as significant contextual factors that influence how we perceive literary texts.

Entry requirement

5 GCSEs at 9-5 including English and Maths

Duration

2 years

How will I be assessed?

You will have three exams at the end of your second year: paper 1 is 2 hours and 15 minutes, paper 2 an hour and 15 minutes, and paper 3 2 hours and 15 minutes. You will also have a non-examined unit which is a 2,500 – 3,000 comparative essay.

Where does it lead?

English Literature is seen as a 'facilitating subject' which can help you to progress into higher education or employment. The skills you will gain, such as analysis, written communication and developing an argument can help you to succeed in many career paths. Students have gone on to study degrees in English, Psychology, Sociology, Education and Marketing.

Is this course suitable for me?

Yes, if you prefer a more academic approach to learning, assessment is based on understanding, knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation. If you enjoy discussions, independent research and reading and you have a genuine interest in how literature works this course could be for you.

Additional information

- Students will have the opportunity to attend lectures delivered by leading figures through our partnership with Wellington College.
- Students will have the chance to see theatre productions, visit sites of literary heritage as well as attending lectures given by academics
- Students will be expected to read widely around the subject, particularly engaging with resources such as EMagazine and English Review (via school log in).

How to Apply

- Complete and return an application form. Application forms are available from the Wellington Academy website: www.thewellingtonacademy.org.uk.
- Your completed application should be returned to Dave Bissington, Head of 6th Form, this can be done either via your tutor (if internal) or delivered to the school reception.
- Alternatively please complete an online form, found under 2021 – Applications on the 6th Form tab.
- You will have an individual course consultation, during which provisional courses will be agreed.
- The offer of the course will be conditional upon you meeting the required entry grades, any subject specific criteria and having a suitable reference from your previous school.
- Your final interview will be held immediately after you have received your GCSE results. This is when your actual offer is negotiated and confirmed.

www.wellingtonacademy.org.uk

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