



Why study English Literature at Formby High School?

English Literature is an ideal choice for anyone who loves reading and is interested in the big questions regarding human experience. It is also a highly respected A Level that can be instrumental in helping students gain university places in a variety of subjects. Students will gain a great deal of academic prowess as they are taught to think analytically, consider different interpretations and listen and respond to one another sensitively. One of the most important skills they will develop is how to write coherently and critically. The feedback from students is that our lessons are well planned, innovative and enjoyable. Students work in an extremely positive classroom environment which enables lively and penetrating discussion. Work is quickly and efficiently marked and always gives clear and detailed guidance for improvement. Prospective Oxbridge candidates are prepared for their personal statements and interviews from early in the first term of Sixth Form.

What does the course involve?

The course will offer you the chance to study a rich variety of literature from different time periods. The texts are stimulating and interesting, and there is the opportunity for you to develop your own interests and to bring your own creative and independent skills to the tasks. Studying English Literature will give you the opportunity 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 will enable you to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. In this way you are encouraged to challenge the interpretations of other readers as you develop your own informed personal responses.

You will explore prose, poetry and drama texts, including Tennessee Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire', Emily Bronte's 'Wuthering Heights' and Khaled Hosseini's 'A Thousand Splendid Suns'. You will also study a range of poetry written post-2000 and a selection of Victorian poetry. In Year 13 you will undertake an independent critical study of two texts linked by theme, movement, author or period in order to produce an extended essay. The A Level course will be assessed through three examinations (two of 2 hours and 15 minutes and one of 1 hour and 15 minutes) which combined are worth 80% of the marks, plus a coursework piece worth 20% of the marks.

What can the qualification lead to?

There is a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You will learn and use a variety of transferable skills in speaking and analytical writing. The course will form a good basis for study in any future pathway – the Arts, the Humanities, Law and the Sciences.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Which other subjects complement English Literature?

- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Film Studies
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Religious Studies



“ Studying English Literature at A level will allow you to develop your understanding of many different forms of literature. The wide variety of texts you will study, as well as the constant support and encouragement from your teachers, will help you reach a deeper level of critical and original thought surrounding the texts studied. I personally, am enjoying the close analysis of the modern poetry as well as approaching texts like Khaled Hosseini's 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' from different perspectives which provides context and furthers my understanding. ”

Josie chose to stay at Formby High for Sixth Form