

The Department

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Year 9

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

The study of GCSE English Language and English Literature begins in Year 9 by incorporating the skills and success criteria that will be fundamental to students' progress in Years 10 and 11. Students in Year 9 study a range of topics, covering both English Language and English Literature GCSE skills. There is a strong emphasis on writing skills throughout the year, particularly the technical accuracy needed for coherence and fluency at a GCSE level.

Units include: the study of three or more Sherlock Holmes stories, written by Arthur Conan Doyle; creative prose writing (story writing); the understanding and analysis of prepared and unseen poetry; comparison and analysis of the openings to a number of Shakespeare plays; and learning how to construct an extensive literature essay with an appropriate critical style, using a novel, such as 'ThebyF.GreatScottFitzgeraldGatsby', 'Animal Farm by George Orwell' or 'Heroes' by Robert Cormier as stimulus.

Years 10 and 11

GCSE English Language – Exam Board: Eduqas (formerly WJEC)

In English Language, learning focuses on developing the skills required for two exam components. There is no controlled assessment component. The reading elements require students to read and answer questions on twentieth-century fiction in Component 1, and nineteenth and twenty-first century non-fiction writing in Component 2. The writing tasks include creative prose writing (story writing) in Component 1 and transactional writing in Component 2. This involves writing for a clear purpose and audience, in a range of styles, including the ability to write letters, reviews, reports, articles, leaflets and speeches. Both components of the examinations will be examined at the end of Year 11.

GCSE English Literature – Exam Board: Edexcel

For the English Literature specification, students will read and analyse 'Romeo a Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and 'An Inspector Calls' by J B Pri language analysis of a given extract, as well as explorative essays requiring a critical style. Students will also be

tested on their understanding of prepared and unseen poetry. The poetry anthology includes 15 poems on the area of 'conflict'. All literature texts and poetry will be closed book at examinations.

The English Department recommends the following texts and study guides for GCSE:

- A Christmas Carol: Puffins Classics ISBN 978-0141-32452-4
- Romeo and Juliet: Longman School Shakespeare ISBN 0-582-84874-1
- An Inspector Calls: Heinemann ISBN 978-0-435232-82-5

In addition, we recommend the York Notes for GCSE Study Guides New for GCSE (9-1) for all three texts. There are also accompanying work books.