

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

## INTRODUCTION

GCSE English offers two GCSEs – one in English Language and one in English Literature. Students will follow the AQA specifications in English. These courses, graded from 9 to 1, are compulsory in Key Stage 4.

Both of the subjects will be assessed through 4 examinations at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework or controlled assessment unit for Language or Literature. The Spoken Language endorsement is separately certificated.



## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

**GCSE English Language** allows you to demonstrate your ability to use English in real life contexts, and uses an investigative and analytical approach to language topics, drawing on personal experience. It tests your ability to read for meaning and to write for different audiences and purposes. You will consider a range of texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

**GCSE English Literature** requires you to explore texts from a personal perspective, and offers the opportunity to experience Literature of today, and from the Literary Heritage. You will study a range of texts from different genres and you will learn about poetry, prose and drama.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All students will follow the National Curriculum in English, leading to qualifications in the subjects as explained above.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- GCSE English Language has two equally weighted exams; Paper 1 is Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing and Paper 2 is Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives.
- Spoken Language is separately certificated and will test your ability to talk to different audiences in different contexts.
- GCSE English Literature assessment takes place over two exams; Paper 1 is Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel (40%) and Paper 2 is Modern Texts and Poetry (60%).
- The exam papers are un-tiered, meaning that there are no Foundation and Higher tier papers; all students take the same exams.

## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Securing a good pass in English Language is an essential requirement for entry onto A-Level courses and for university entry. A pass in English is also essential for entry into apprenticeships and fields of employment.

English GCSEs can lead to the study of English Literature or English Language at A-Level. English and English Literature are popular choices for degree courses.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Ms Vallance, Assistant Headteacher and Head of English or Mrs Curtis, subject leader for KS4 for more details or access the website below.

AQA GCSE English Specifications: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)