

# English Literature

## About the Subject

Everything that has ever been written in poetry, prose or drama is a record of the thoughts and ideas which people have had through the ages. By taking English Literature, you will be studying the history of what people have thought and felt.

This subject considers how and why writers make the choices they do, so that readers respond to the messages in their texts: this involves analysing the choices writers make with structure and language but also involves thinking about the contexts surrounding the production of the texts.

Students who take English Literature with us, tend to achieve highly in the subject: we have a track record of students often achieving A\* grades. The quality of teaching is superb and your lessons will be very much about you exploring how Literature works. You will read and analyse poetry, drama and prose, some of which we will decide upon in advance. However, we take pride in giving students opportunity to choose some texts that they will study: the non-exam assessment is up to individual students to choose texts and therefore pursue your own reading interests.

## Course Content

Over the two years, you will study the following topics. Text choices given here are current for 2016-17.

### Year One

Aspects of Tragedy

- Shakespeare (Othello)
- Prose (Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy)
- Drama (Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller)

At the end of your first year, you will begin work on the non-examination assessment:

Theory and Independence (2 essays on a prose text and a poetry text, based on your reading of the critical anthology).

### Year Two

Elements of Crime Writing

- Poetry (The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Samuel Taylor Coleridge)
- Shakespeare (Hamlet)
- Prose (Atonement, Ian McEwan)

Assessment takes place at the end of the two year course through external examinations (80%) and non-examination assessment (20%).