ENGLISH LITERATURE

New A Level or AS Level

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**Exam Board:** WJEC

This two year course is one of the revised A Levels being introduced for first teaching in 2015. Syllabus content may be subject to change.

**Fact File**
- GCSEs to include a C in English Language
- Essay-based analysis of poetry, plays, novels and short stories including works by Shakespeare
- Enrichment opportunities include English Extension sessions, theatre visits and the creative writing group.

**Course summary**

*Read in order to live.*  
**Gustave Flaubert**

Taking English Literature at Barton Peveril means you’ll get to study some of the most famous and fascinating writers of all time. William Shakespeare will always feature but so will women writers, American writers and texts concentrated in specific time periods. You’ll leave us with the skills necessary for a lifelong appreciation of fiction in all its forms and a real talent for practically criticising any text you’re confronted with. From the narrators who recount great texts to the social implications of literature, you’ll articulate both argument and analysis across a wide range of literary issues.

A Level English Literature is a hugely challenging, enjoyable and widely respected qualification. You will be expected to love reading independently and enjoy a variety of fiction: novels, poetry, plays and short stories. Equally you must be confident in articulating your analysis of texts in formal essays. Class debate is lively and strong opinions about set texts are welcomed and encouraged.

**Specific entry requirements**
All students on a full A Level programme are expected to have at least five A*-C grade GCSEs. This course requires a C in English Language.

**What kinds of topics will I be studying?**
- Poetry: Pre-1900 - Geoffrey Chaucer *The Merchant’s Tale*; Post-1900 - Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes *Selected Poems*.
- Drama: William Shakespeare *King Lear*; Henrik Ibsen *The Doll’s House*; Caryl Churchill *Top Girls*.
- Prose study of two texts from different periods, pre and post-2000. You will be able to propose your own selection of appropriate texts.
- Analysis of unseen texts: poetry plus unseen prose from 1918-1939. Authors from this period include Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, Daphne du Maurier, James Joyce, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene.

**What will my final qualification be?**
An A Level in English Literature at the end of two years of study, awarded by WJEC.
**How will my work be assessed?**
Assessment is by written exams and a 2500-3500 word coursework essay based on your reading of two prose texts. This is worth 20% of your final mark.

**What extra support/enrichment activities might be offered?**
We believe that support, assessment and feedback can make a real difference to your results. Staff offer a range of support strategies including 1-1 feedback for both coursework and examined work, revision sessions and revision workshops, and subject specific online support. All the team members see students as individuals and we want you to leave Barton Peveril confident in your abilities and proud of your grade in English.

Our enrichment opportunities include such things as theatre visits and trips to inspire creative writing, as well as a student–led debating society, and a creative writing club. In your second year you can opt to complete a specialised Extended Project in Creative Writing, Extension English or Print Journalism. The English Department are concerned with your progress at Barton Peveril and beyond and so we provide timetabled English Extension sessions where we introduce you to new texts, encourage you to debate and explore and prepare you for university interviews and entrance examinations. We will also give you a series of mock interviews should you decide to apply for Russell Group universities. Your love of English will be nurtured with us!

**What other subjects combine well with this course?**
English Literature combines particularly well with English Language, History, Drama and Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Sociology, Communication and Culture, Philosophy, Law...

**Where might it lead?**
English Literature is one of the most respected and demanding A Levels. Analysing and evaluating literary sources is a highly desirable skill relevant to a huge variety of careers and university courses. The ability to accurately express yourself and empathise with multiple interpretations can be transferred into journalism, marketing, public relations, law and of course further literary research.

**Will I need any specialist materials or equipment?**
There are no specific requirements for this course.

**What is the difference between English Literature and other English A Levels?**
English Literature students love writing essays about fiction. If you prefer non-fiction and/or creative writing then you should investigate Language and/or Language and Literature. Further details are on our What’s the Difference information sheet.