**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?**

**English Literature**

The successful study of English Literature at A Level will require students to demonstrate an

interest in, and love of, all things Literary – books, plays, poems, literary essays, world and

historical contexts of writers and their writing, critical studies of texts, and reviews of

creative writing. Students should be independent readers, able to apply theories to textual

studies, as well as critical and analytical thinkers who are able to make links between what

they read and what they know.

**What does the course involve?**

The 2-year course will help you to

* read widely and independently set texts and others that you have selected for yourself
* engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
* develop and effectively apply your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
* explore the contexts of the texts you are reading and others’ interpretations of them
* undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen your appreciation and

understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions.

**What kind of student is this course suitable for?**

English Literature at Advanced Level provides an excellent foundation for many varied careers and further study. The literary text is at the heart of the qualification, but the skills required to study that text are wide-ranging, and many graduates of English Literature go on to make a profound impact in the modern world. They are critical thinkers, problem-solvers, analytical reflectors – and they balance this with a creative approach to the world of words.

We need our students to be confident speakers and collaborative workers, able to ‘think outside the box’ and develop interpretive approaches to established literary works. We need passionate lovers of books and enthusiastic readers who are willing to challenge themselves, their preconceptions, their prejudices and their views of the world around them. We want role models for younger students and 6th Form champions of reading.

**What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?**

For students who are interested in:

Writing about Reading

Leading to a career in: students of English Literature are considered to have highly adaptable skills of analysis, research and communication and, as such, enter a wide range of careers

There are 4 components in a linear 2-year A Level course; we do not study the AS course.

Component 1: Drama – 2 texts studied, written exam, 30% of total grade

Component 2: Prose – 2 texts studied, written exam, 20% of total grade

Component 3: Poetry – poetic form, meaning and language from modern and traditional poets, written exam, 30% of total grade

Component 4: Coursework – based on 2 personally chosen texts, extended comparative essay of 2500-3000 words, 20% of total grade.