

# English Literature (OCR)

*“Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing.”*  
- Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

To study English Literature is to study the human condition; it is to discover the wonders and frailties of human nature and society throughout the ages. English Literature is a rigorous subject designed to challenge and stimulate students through close reading, lively discussion and the writing of formal essays. However, English Literature is also fun, sometimes controversial, and hugely enriching.



## Academic

The 20% coursework component affords the chance to develop the analytical and comparative skills assessed in exam components, whilst experimenting with creative writing. We study a number of American novels, such as 'The Great Gatsby', exploring issues such as wealth, identity and capitalism; students discover how different America is culturally, but also how relevant the ideas still are today.

The course also features a Danish play in translation, 'A Doll's House', Ibsen's controversial humanist work, which brilliantly explores the role of women in Victorian society. No course would be complete without a little Shakespeare and we go straight for one of the greatest, 'Hamlet'; we love the hero's agonised struggle with family, love and the question of revenge.

## Co-Curricular

Students benefit from a rich programme of competitions and trips such as actor-led workshops on 'Hamlet' and immersive performances.

In supporting applications to read English at university, we offer bespoke advice on reading lists and elect English Leaders who become ambassadors, helping to organise a number of initiatives such as social media accounts, display boards and the department's creative writing club, 'Muse'.