

English

Our specialist English teachers nurture students' confident self-expression and love of reading, which, in turn, finds creative outlet through student journalism in 'Backchat' and entry into GDST and national competitions.

Challenging, rich text choices underpin the study of literature at all Key Stages, while debating and public speaking promote oracy skills.

Book groups, theatre and author visits, as well as support for students wishing to read English at university, complete a supportive, bespoke programme.



Key Stage 3

Each year at KS3 features completion of a bespoke private reading scheme, study of at least one novel, a Shakespeare play, a range of poems from different periods and in different forms, and non-fiction articles. Transactional and creative writing skills are also developed.

A striking feature of the Year 8 curriculum is the study of S. Hill's 'The Woman in Black', a pastiche of the Victorian Gothic genre published in 1983. Students absolutely love her 'Ghost with a purpose' and the way she frames the narrative; the film is a hit too.



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Key Stage 4

Given the increasing importance of internationalism, we are delighted to be able to offer Edexcel IGCSEs in Language and Literature, which provide holistic assessment approaches including 40% coursework. Rigorous reading and writing skills, stimulating text choices and a degree of independent choice make these highly popular qualifications with our students and teachers alike.



Key Stage 5

At A Level, our students are advantaged by an incredibly well-balanced experience of literature with OCR, including Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', Victorian poetry from Christina Rossetti and a text in translation in the form of Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'. A fascinating and surprisingly different literary experience is gained through the American unit, which features two core novels, Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby' and Steinbeck's 'The Grapes

of Wrath', as well as a number of satellite novels from 1880-1940, including Cather's 'My Antonia' and 'Wright's Native Son'.

We believe students gain an insight into women's experiences through time, as well as learning about themes that are still current today, such as identity and capitalism.

"Reading 'The Woman in Black' was great. I loved the theme, it was really different from other novels I'd studied. It helped me to write about ideas beyond my own experience in a more convincing way."

- Eaman, Year 9



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