



A-level English Literature

Students who respond well to new ideas, embrace challenging texts and enjoy lively classroom discussions thrive at this school. We are passionate about our subject in the English department and are still excited about reading and teaching texts ranging from classic to contemporary literature.

It's important that you enjoy and appreciate Literature, develop your own views and responses as well as improve your technical and analytical skills. We'll help you refine your skills of analysis and interpretation so that you can express yourself in a structured and thoughtful manner.

We want you to consider, debate and explore the thoughts of some of the greatest writers ever to put pen to paper, fingers to keyboards, but, above all, we want you to think for yourselves.

The taught elements of the course encourage the study of a wide range of texts with a focus on two particular genres. Our students enjoy investigating crime writing and fully immerse themselves in tragedy, both of these options are ideal for people with an inquisitive and enquiring mind. On top of this, the "Theory and Independence Unit" allows you to explore your own choice of texts alongside a "Critical Anthology" which will open your eyes to thought-provoking ideologies such as the more traditional areas like feminist and Marxist theory and as well as post-colonialism and eco-criticism.

This is really an excellent chance to not only pursue your interests through coursework but also develop a passion for almost any aspect of the subject. We continue to serve our students well in terms of results and are rated highly on value added measures. Our department results sit well above the national average for the top grades and English Literature was the best result obtained by nearly 60% of our candidates in 2024.

Continued overleaf

Lancaster Royal
Grammar School

State Day and Boarding School for Boys Aged 11 to 18
Coeducational Sixth Form



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Not only do we encourage students to thrive academically, but we want to see students flourish by taking part in extracurricular activities. The English department has strong links with the school's senior debating society which dates back to the early twentieth century and is still going strong. Last year we entered the ESU Mace Debating competition (the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales) and were crowned regional champions, earning a place at the finals day in London. There are opportunities to enter writing competitions, to shadow book awards, enjoy theatre visits and experience talks from guest speakers including writers and academics. This year we're reprising our residential trip to Stratford and are looking forward to seeing two plays at the RSC. We are very much open to suggestions for more activities and look forward to hearing about what our students want to get involved with.

What can English Literature lead to?

English Literature opens up the opportunity to study a wide range of courses at university and makes you an attractive prospect to future employers who value the skills of analysis, clarity of expression and creative thinking. As well as English and English Literature our students go on to university to study a variety of subjects including: Journalism, Economics, Law, Languages, History, Divinity, Classics, Theatre, Art, Media Studies and even Medicine.

Those who choose English Literature at this school typically combine it with studying two or three of the following: History, Philosophy, Business Studies, Latin, Theatre Studies, Modern Languages, Art, Music and Geography. However, many also choose Literature as a means of broadening their options and combine it with Mathematics or the Sciences to make them stand out as candidates for oversubscribed courses.

"The teachers strike a perfect balance between guided learning and independent study.

The staff are always open to any interpretation - as long as you can back it up. They encourage you to come up with your own ideas about the text, and question those of others, which can only be positive, especially when preparing for university level studies." Sixth Form pupil.

Exam Board: AQA Specification B

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