

Progression between Year 12 and Year 13

Study for the second year of the course commences as soon as students return from completion of their examinations. All work covered in the second year will build on that covered in the first year with the exception of the 'fresh' course work module.

Coombe Sixth Form English Literature A Level



Jennifer

"English Literature frees the imagination and is the study of everything in culture, and how we fit into the world. It's about much more than identifying literary devices and effects; it's about understanding diverse perspectives and other worlds, and reading against the grain. If you enjoy discussion, exploring the past and the future, and are interested in developing sensitivity to hidden meaning, English is for you."



English Literature

What does studying English Literature involve?

It is essential that all students are keen and adaptable readers as the Literature course demands that you read at least 8 set texts plus unseen poetry. Having said this, the best candidates will constantly be advised to stretch themselves with further independent reading. The course also requires that students write a range of assignments. Students will have to complete one challenging piece of coursework in the second year of study. These will test the candidates' ability to analyse, make links between and opine about some of the texts they have studied in class. Research and wider reading are, of course, activities connected with these largely independent tasks. It is therefore very important that students considering English are confident in their ability to express themselves with clear, sophisticated and organised writing as necessary.

Discussion is a big part of English lessons at A level. Without the variety of ideas generated by this activity, broad textual understanding will be limited which ultimately may restrict the quality of coursework and exam responses. Students will therefore be expected to offer opinions,

make educated guesses and substantiate and develop their own and others' assertions from the start of the course.

What skills will I develop and where could studying this subject lead?

Your ability to take and assimilate notes, to research effectively, to present information in a variety of ways to groups of listeners will also be honed. Being excellent communicators opens all kinds of doors with regard to careers and choice of university course, too.

Employers need people who can crisply and concisely convey information, as well as those who can use their initiative in responding to and manipulating ideas they receive.

Entry requirements / prior knowledge:

Students are required to gain a numerical grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE in order to access this course.

Modules that you will cover and assessment details

A Level

Drama – Students study one Shakespeare play and one other drama from either the genre of Tragedy or Comedy. They will be tested at the end of the course in a 2 hour 15 min exam by writing an essay on each text.

Prose – Students study two prose texts from a chosen them (one must be pre 1900). They will be tested in a 1 hour exam at the end of the course.

Poetry – Students study a selection of poetry from a post-2000 collection along with either a range of poetry from a literary period or a range of poetry by a named poet. They will be tested in a 2 hour 15 minutes exam at the end of the course with a comparative and an essay question.

Coursework – Students study two freely chosen texts linked by theme, movement, author or period before writing an extended comparative essay on both.

Similarities between GCSE and A Level

The biggest difference in this regard is that students need to be much more autonomous in the way they approach A Level English. GCSE is very directed and prescribed. The best students at A Level will rapidly realise that, within the bounds of the syllabus and according to teacher guidance, setting their own agenda and parameters will give them most pleasure and reward.