

# GCSE English Language/English Literature for Current Year 9 Students

## What qualifications are we offering?

- Students start a combined English Language and English Literature course following the AQA specification.
- The course is linear so students will take exams at the end of Year 11 for both qualifications.
- Both English Language and English Literature are of equal status and importance.

## English Language

- **Paper 1 (50%):**
  - Section A will test the students' ability to analyse a prose fiction extract in terms of how it captures the interest of the readers.
  - Section B will prompt students to write creatively based on the topic from Section A and with an additional visual image as stimulus.
- **Paper 2 (50%):**
  - Section A will ask students to analyse how writers present particular themes/issues that are important to our lives.
  - Section B will ask students to provide their own opinion on the theme introduced in Section A, writing to a specific audience, purpose and in a particular form (article, speech, letter, etc.).

- **Spoken Language:**

A separate endorsement which will be graded at pass, merit or distinction.

## English Literature

- **Paper 1 (50%):**
  - Section A will ask students to respond to a specific scene from a Shakespeare text in light of a key theme/idea, before exploring the whole play.
  - Section B will test the same skills as Section A but this time testing the students' knowledge of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel.
- **Paper 2 (50%):**
  - Section A will ask students to respond to a question about a theme from a modern prose or drama text.
  - Section B asks students to answer a question on a specific theme with one poem identified. Students will choose the second poem to compare this to. All poems from this Section will have been studied in class.
  - Section C will ask students to compare two unseen poems, looking at both similarities and differences.

## How will the course be structured?

- Both Language and Literature follow the same set of Assessment Objectives.
- Examinations for both Literature and Language will be at the end of Year 11.
- There is far more content to be covered for Literature than there is for Language i.e. set texts.
- Given the above facts, we have opted to teach both Language and Literature content alongside one another. We will predominantly focus on Literature set texts but will use these to inform Language style questions as well as Literature style questions.

## Which groups will students be in?

- Students will be set based on teacher assessment towards the end of Year 9.
- The set number is not always an indication of the ability - students are in broad ability groups so set 5 is equal to set 4 for example. There is therefore no 'bottom set'.

## How can parents help?

- *Encourage your child to complete **homework** tasks and to **read** a range of texts - magazines, web-based articles, newspapers, literary non-fiction, etc. Also encourage the use of the **internet** for revision: [www.bbcbitessize.co.uk](http://www.bbcbitessize.co.uk), recommended YouTube presenters, school-made blogs and forums, @TGASEnglish twitter feed, etc.*
- *Take **spelling tests** to help with accuracy during homework and exams.*