English Literature

AQA

Penwortham Girls' High School

Introduction: Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and prepare for studying literature at a higher level. Students read a wide range of classic literature; develop connections across their reading; discuss their understanding and appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage.

Description of the course: The aim of the course is to develop students' ability write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English. They will acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read. We cover a broad range of texts: a Shakespeare play; a Nineteenth Century novel; a Modern Text and a wide selection for poetry ranging from the Romantic era, to modern day. Above all, we aim to foster a love and respect for our literary heritage.

How you will learn: Our approach is a skills based one with very clear links to English Language. Students will engage in a variety of tasks including individual and group tasks which will develop students' skills in communicating creatively and responding to texts. In addition, we support the study of our set texts with theatre visits and performances in school from touring productions. Where possible, students are given opportunities to explore texts practically using drama techniques. All students should purchase a copy of each set text which they can then annotate fully to support their independent study.

Assessment: For English Literature there are two written papers. These will be sat at the end of the course, in May of Year 11. There is no longer any tier of entry.
Paper 1 Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel 1hour 45 mins (40% of the final mark)
Paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of the final mark)

Using this qualification: English Literature is a well- respected "A" level course – either as a stand-alone A level or with English Language as a combined course. It is considered a "facilitating subject" – a rigorous academic qualification which many of the top Universities look for when considering applications. The analytical skills, and the ability to read closely to interpret a writer's techniques, support many other subjects in further study.

Subject Leader: Mrs D. Snowdon