

English Literature

The key skills and components of the course

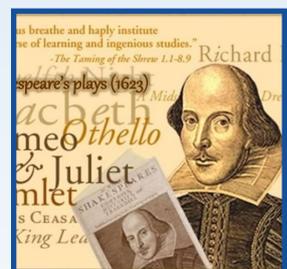
- The first examined unit, entitled **'Drama and Poetry Pre-1900'** involves the study of a Shakespeare play and the comparative study of drama and poetry produced pre-1900. Not only will students broaden their horizons in terms of the texts that they have read before, but they will learn the vital importance of the contexts surrounding these texts.
- The second unit, **'Comparative and Contextual Study'** invites students to become experts in a particular period or genre of literature (such as American Fiction or The Gothic). In this unit, they will prepare to answer questions on key 'set texts' as well as an 'unseen' passage in their specialist topic area. They will also explore new ways of interpreting literature – such as Marxist and Feminist readings of texts.
- The **coursework unit (20% of the A-level)** is a fabulous opportunity for students to improve their close analysis skills as well as their appreciation of 21st century literature.



This course attracts students who enjoy reading, debating and analysing a wide range of poetry, plays and novels. The course naturally develops the skills of debate and independent research. In addition, it provides an excellent foundation for the study of literature at undergraduate level.



In order to enhance the study of this course, the English Area has offered enrichment opportunities which have included theatre performances and visiting guest lecturers. Additional extension lessons have also been offered in past years for those students keen to broaden their experience, particularly where considering English as a degree. Popular revision courses have also run prior to the exam period.



Students should not underestimate the challenge of this course, particularly in the second year; they should be prepared to read independently and develop a mature written style. This course effectively complements other essay-based subjects such as Psychology, Philosophy, History, Classics and Modern Foreign Languages as well as Performing Arts courses.

"Loved the coursework last year. I felt like I was able to write my own piece from scratch with much more scope to do something different and less rigidly structured." **Philippa Cole**

"I have enjoyed the range of different books allocated to the course. This reading helps to further develop your capabilities in other subjects." **Laurence McWhinnie**



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SWCHS Sixth Form

