

## **A-level English Literature**

The study of English Literature at A-level develops naturally from work in English Language and Literature at GCSE. It aims to encourage and deepen an enjoyment and appreciation of literature and literary studies, based on informed personal response. From September 2008 students have been following the new OCR English Literature specification. Our version of the course is designed to ensure that students study a very wide range of writers and texts from different historical periods and different social and cultural backgrounds.

### **AS-level**

During the first year of the course, the following units will be studied and assessed:

#### **Unit 1 Poetry and Prose 1800-1945**

(2 hour examination; 60% of total AS marks; 30% of total A-level marks.) Students will study at least one poetry and one prose text, by poets such as Wordsworth, Owen, Frost and Rossetti, and novelists such as Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy and F. Scott Fitzgerald. The course is supported by a complementary text that explores basic literary-critical concepts and approaches.

#### **Unit 2 Literature Post-1900**

(Coursework; 40% of total AS marks; 20% of total A-level marks.) Students will study at least three post-1900 texts, at least one of which will have been published or performed after 1990. The aim of this internally-assessed unit is to encourage interest and enjoyment in contemporary literary studies. Texts are selected in groupings that facilitate links or contrasts, in order to develop the ability to explore how texts illuminate and connect with each other. Students produce a coursework folder of a maximum of 3000 words.

### **A2-level**

During the second year of the course, the following units will be studied and assessed

#### **Unit 3 Drama and Poetry pre-1900**

(2 hour examination; 30% of total A-level marks.) Students study at least one Shakespeare play, together with poetry and drama by other writers. Part of this unit is a comparative study, where students explore links and contrasts between writers such as Chaucer, Donne, Aphra Behn, Sheridan and Milton.

#### **Unit 4 Texts in Time**

(Coursework; 20% of total A-level marks.) This unit leads to an extended, individual essay of a maximum of 3000 words. Several texts are studied and compared, and students are encouraged to develop their own tastes and interests. These texts are linked by genre, topic or period.