

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

All girls will follow the **AQA GCSE** courses in English Language and English Literature course throughout Years 10 and 11.

There are two 55-minute lessons for English Language and two for English Literature, usually taught by the same teacher. Students are expected to complete up to two hours of Study each week. They are also expected to read widely, watch high quality drama productions, and challenge themselves with increasingly demanding texts, both fiction and non-fiction.

GCSE English Language is designed to develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively, in a range of different forms and for a range of audiences and purposes. At the same time, students learn how to analyse the communication of others, making inferences, detecting bias, and exploring the ways a text affects its audience.

There are two English Language exams at the end of the course, one focused on fiction and the other on non-fiction. Both require students to produce analytical responses to a previously unseen text or texts, and to complete a challenging writing task. There is also a separate spoken language assessment.

GCSE English Literature involves students studying a range of poetry, prose and drama. The course will enable learners to deepen their appreciation of the ways in which writers use English to express meaning and achieve effects, and to explore wider issues, gaining understanding of themselves and of the world.

All girls are required to study a Shakespeare play, a nineteenth-century novel such as *Pride and Prejudice* or *Jekyll and Hyde*, another substantial text such as *Lord of the Flies*, and a range of poetry. There are two English Literature exams at the end of the course.

We hope that many of the girls will be inspired to continue their study of English Literature in the Sixth Form, and these syllabuses provide an excellent foundation for this. For all girls, these courses develop valuable skills for life, and are recognised by universities as a sound basis for higher education.