

Why study English Literature?

Consider the quotations below from some of English Literature's most famous writers:

"Literature is where I go to explore the highest and lowest places in human society and in the human spirit, where I hope to find not absolute truth but the truth of the tale, of the imagination and of the heart." (Salman Rushdie)

"It takes a great deal of history to produce a little literature." (Henry James)

"What is wonderful about great literature is that it transforms the man who read it towards the condition of the man who wrote it." (E. M. Forster)

"While thought exists, words are alive and literature becomes an escape, not from, but into living." (Cyril Connolly)

The study of English Literature trains the brain and frees the imagination; it is about life and living, and explores where you fit into the world around you. The course offers you the chance to study a rich variety of literature from many different writers and periods. The texts are stimulating and interesting, full of complex characters, intriguing plots and wonderful settings. You will study the motives and crafts of writers from pre and post 20th Century, as well as the historical and social contexts in which they wrote.

In Year 13, there will be an opportunity for you to investigate your own area of literary interest when you complete a non-examination assessment of two prose texts.

Entry Requirements

It is recommended that you have at least a B Grade in GCSE English Language AND Literature. It is vital that you are also an avid and capable reader, skilled in creative writing and willing to study independently throughout the course.

Where do I go from here?

Studying English Literature helps to sharpen your analytical skills. If you can take a text and find the themes plus connect it with other texts, theories and historical events, you are showing that you can handle complex ideas, search for patterns and interpret information in a wider context. You will also develop your essay writing skills as well as gain a deeper understanding of history and culture. The skills developed on this course are well-suited to the following career paths:

Academia | Advertising | Business | Editing | Foreign Languages | Journalism | Law | Marketing

Media | Politics | Teaching | Writing

What other subjects does English Literature go with?

In a nutshell, it goes with everything. It's especially helpful with essay subjects like History or Politics and goes well with social science subjects that look at human behaviour, such as Psychology or Sociology. English Literature is an essential requirement for an English-based degree, and highly recommended for various other university degree courses. You will also develop your planning and research skills as well as gain knowledge of history, culture, philosophy and even human behaviour.