

## **Why choose English Literature?**

English Literature offers an opportunity like no other A Level: the chance to explore the lives, narratives and worlds of others. Through reading some of the greatest works of the literary imagination, you will dive into strange and unique worlds, vicariously live lives that you never dreamed possible and experience the joys and struggles of your fellow man. Through analysing the literary canon, you will develop close analysis skills and your own unique interpretations of texts. You will cultivate a love of language and the writer's craft. In classroom debates and critical discussion, you will be challenged to voice your own opinions and your critical imagination will flourish.

English Literature is a rigorous and highly academic A Level that is sought after by all Russell Group universities. Students of English Literature can go on to study Law, History, Politics, Journalism, Advertising and Media, as well as literature-based degree courses. The critical thinking, creative skills and development of a formal, professional writing style offered by the subject make it a perfect compliment to arts or science subjects.

## **What will you learn?**

During your AS Level year, you will study a broad and challenging range of texts from across the ages: from Shakespearean tragedy to 19th century poetry. Your first year will take you through an in-depth study of tragedy in literature, looking at texts by Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Thomas Hardy. At the end of this year, you will sit two examinations: one on drama; one on prose and poetry.

In your A Level year, you will be introduced to critical theory and explore notions of genre. You will undertake an in-depth study of texts based around political and social protest. You will understand how writers use language to comment on the structures of society and engage with their message of protest. At the end of this year, you will sit two examinations: one on the genre of tragedy; one on political and social protest. Throughout the year, you will also complete two pieces of coursework based on literary theory.

## **Why study English Literature at Hackney New Sixth Form?**

HNSF is proud to offer a range of brand new library facilities, tailored to the needs and requirements of our sixth form students. Our library is stocked with the latest critical theory and revision guides to assist your wider reading and boasts a range of Harvard University First editions of classic literary texts. Any requests for further reading can be made to our dedicated and experienced librarian, Ms Olivia Kilmartin.

You will study with enthusiastic teachers who have experience teaching A Level English Literature. Ms Routledge will be leading the English Literature course:

*"Literature has always been my passion ever since I was an A Level student myself. After graduating from Edinburgh University with a First class degree in Italian and English*

*Literature, I taught English Literature A Level at an academy in Kent. At HNSF I have run a range of reading initiatives and book groups to bring a love of literature to all students. The A Level course has been carefully selected to include a range of inspiring and exciting texts, some of which are my favourite works of literature, and it will be a pleasure to see them come to life in the minds of a new cohort of sixth form students.”*

A significant part of life and study at HNSF is the unique study sessions offered to explicitly teach essay writing and revision skills. Whether you have mastered an academic writing style, require help with formatting your references, or are a novice to critical literary writing, our sessions will support and guide you to hone your craft. Revision support is on offer to all and you will have access to our brand new sixth form study area.

### What are the entry requirements for studying English Literature at HNSF?

Entry Criteria: B+ in English Language and B+ in English Literature (GCSE)

### How will I be assessed?

You will be sitting the English Literature A Level with AQA (Specification B).

In your AS Level year, you will sit two examinations:

<p><b>Paper 1: Literary genres: Aspects of tragedy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Shakespeare play</li> <li>• One modern drama</li> </ul> <p>This exam will be closed-book: you will <b>not</b> be allowed to take your copy of the texts into the exam.</p> <p><b>(50% of AS Level)</b></p>	<p><b>Paper 2: Literary genres: Prose and Poetry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One 20th century prose text</li> <li>• One collection of 19th century poetry</li> </ul> <p>This exam will be open-book: you can take a clean copy of the texts into the exam.</p> <p><b>(50% of AS Level)</b></p>
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In your A Level year, you will sit two examinations and complete one piece of coursework:

<p><b>Paper 1: Literary Genres: Aspects of tragedy</b></p>	<p><b>Paper 2: Texts and Genres</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One post-2000 prose text</li> </ul>	<p><b>Coursework: Theory and Independence</b></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● One Shakespeare play</li> <li>● One modern drama</li> <li>● One novel written pre-1900</li> </ul> <p>This exam will be closed-book: you will <b>not</b> be allowed to take your copy of the texts into the exam.</p> <p><b>(40% of A Level)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● One collection of poetry</li> <li>● One further text written pre-1900.</li> </ul> <p>This exam will be open-book: you can take a clean copy of the texts into the exam. You will also be asked to analyse an unseen passage.</p> <p><b>(40% of A Level)</b></p>	<p>The coursework module contains two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● an independently-researched 1500 word essay on two literary texts, incorporating the study of literary theory into its analysis</li> <li>● a ‘re-creative’ creative writing piece of 1500 words, based on your study of one literary text</li> </ul> <p><b>(20% of A Level)</b></p>
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