



Haydock High School English Department - Curriculum

Aims of the department

The English department's mission is to promote a passion for English within all students at Haydock High School, as we strive to promote literary enjoyment and excellence in all years. We aim for students to become independent learners, critical thinkers and to make outstanding progress, whilst fostering a determination to succeed and a love of our subject. An appreciation of the subject is nurtured and will build on the vital foundations that students have already laid at Key Stages 1 and 2. All pupils are challenged to engage with a wide range of fiction and non-fiction in a purposeful and meaningful manner. We aim to encourage all students to feel empowered by what they study, developing creativity for both the written and spoken word. As students develop their understanding of English, they will evolve their interpretations and appreciation of spoken language, English Language and English Literature. This will enrich their learning, as their course will enable them to read widely and form sophisticated, mature opinions of a wide range of writers' work. They will also nurture their ability to write for a range of purposes and audiences.

Ethos

The English team at Haydock High School are determined to celebrate the literary heritage of both the United Kingdom and other cultures. At both key stages, we prepare students to follow the Edexcel GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature courses, to be tested via examination at the end of the course. All units of work are written in order to perfect the skills required at GCSE level. GCSE assessment criteria are used to assess and inform work in all years. Our students follow a broad, rigorous curriculum that allows them to explore the relationship between a writer's context and the impact of their writing. Students develop the skills of empathy and enquiry for current literature as well writing about literature from a world that has gone before them.

The English department has developed a robust programme of study that aims to inspire creativity, imagination and curious minds, ensuring that our students are equipped for both further education and vocational settings.

The English department create and plan challenging, enjoyable lessons, supported by thorough medium term plans, with the intention of sharing their love of the subject, through the design of lessons dedicated to viewing English texts from alternative, original perspectives.

Throughout the five years at Haydock, students study two of Shakespeare's plays, developing an understanding of context, plot and characterisation. Students are also prepared to write about analysis of language, form and structure, whilst simultaneously developing their discussion of themes, in preparation for their Paper 2 English Literature GCSE. Reading skills are embedded through analysis and critical evaluation of Michael Morpurgo's novel, 'Private Peaceful' and Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. The course also includes the analysis of dystopian extracts from a range of fictional writers including Suzanne Collins and George Orwell, and extracts from non-fiction texts such as biographies, autobiographies, blogs, articles and letters. Furthermore, collections of poetry from other cultures, and poems exploring the theme of war, are studied to embed the skills necessary for Component 2 of the English Literature GCSE. Modern literature such as Willy Russell's



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'Blood Brothers' and contemporary poetry written by Simon Armitage and Carol-Ann Duffy form an integral part of our key stage four curriculum. Moreover, exciting opportunities are on offer to develop a range of strategies to enable students to effectively create both imaginative and transactional writing for a range of purposes and audiences, in order to entertain, advise, instruct and persuade.

The department is determined that students will develop a rounded spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness that will shape their own secure personal ethos. Spiritual education in English is carried out through the exploration of poetry, plays and prose, by studying the transition of religious beliefs in England and other cultures throughout history. Examples include how religious attitudes have altered during the Elizabethan/Jacobean eras, war-time 1914, and modern day society. Moral issues are further explored in rich classroom debate, discussion and written exploration, through the study of texts such as 'Blood Brothers,' 'A Christmas Carol,' and the 'Hunger Games.' Social education is provided by studying the influence of social situations in the era of the texts, whether through our other cultures poetry unit, Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'Macbeth,' 'A Christmas Carol' or Michael Morpurgo's novel, 'Private Peaceful.' Cultural development enables students to explore the changes and differences between societies and varying traditions over time, for example, through our Poetry Anthology unit and by studying extracts taken from a variety world fiction including writers such as Maya Angelou, John Agard and Tatumkhula Afrika.

Extra-curricular activities:

The course is complimented by a film hub, a debate hub, and poetry workshop. Lesson six revision classes run from Year ten onwards, as do targeted revision sessions during form time, some Saturdays and over school holidays in Year 11.

Educational visits:

Exciting theatre trips to see 'War Horse,' 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'Macbeth' and 'Blood Brothers' are on offer within English to compliment the courses. Students are also given the opportunity to listen to live performances of poetry readings by contemporary poets.

Homework:

Revision and homework timetables are devised to support the GCSE skills/knowledge for key assessments and mock examinations, which are complimented by a range of revision materials including exemplar tasks, key quotations and essay plans.