



# A Level English Literature

At Loughborough Amherst School we aim to instil a love of literature in all learners from Year 7 to Year 11. Studying English Literature post-16 enables pupils to build on the skills and expertise they have already developed lower down the school, whilst also learning new skills. In addition they will gain a wide breadth of knowledge that is relevant to many aspects of the world we live in today.

Higher education institutions look favourably on candidates who have studied English Literature. Such students are notorious for being objective, analytical, empathetic and, perhaps more crucially, able to communicate effectively in both speech and writing. It is therefore an excellent choice for those wishing to go into fields such as law, teaching, journalism, publishing/marketing and the media. However, many medics, accountants and engineers also opt to pursue the subject beyond GCSE due to its academic rigour.

## Pre-requisites for studying English Literature at A Level

You have a grade 6 in English Literature at GCSE. You enjoy English lessons now and have a passion for reading; you want to pursue the study of the subject beyond GCSE.

You want to become a creative and critical thinker, able to explore the ways in which meaning can be constructed.

You wish to refine your skills of communication; both verbally and in writing.

You enjoy contributing to discussions and expressing your opinions on a wide variety of texts and topics.

You want to study a facilitating subject that will support your higher education choices and be looked upon favourably whichever career pathway you choose to follow.

## What will I study?

Over the course of the two years you will follow the OCR Advanced Level English literature course (H472). This consists of two exams:

**Drama and Poetry Pre-1900** (2 hours 30 minutes; 40%). The set texts currently chosen are Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, a collection of Christina Rossetti's poetry and Ibsen's play *A Doll's House*. You will explore the context surround the production and reception of these texts and develop informed interpretations in light of this.

**Comparative and Contextual Study** (2 hours 30 minutes; 40%). Set texts currently chosen are Carter's *The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories* and Stoker's *Dracula*. In preparation for this exam you will read widely across the literary canon in order to place the set texts and unseen extract into context.

Assessment also includes one piece of coursework:

**Non Examined Assessment** (20%). You will write two essays, one piece of close analysis and one comparative piece on texts and topics of your choosing. Students this year have selected works as diverse as Robinson's poetry collection *A Portable Paradise*, McEwan's novel *Atonement* and Bennett's play *The History Boys*, *Hamlet*, *A Doll's House*, *The Bloody Chamber* and *Other Stories*, *Dracula*.

