

English Literature

OCR Specification



BISHOP
WORDSWORTH'S
SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM

General information:

English Literature has been named as one of the nine facilitating subjects by the Russell Group universities. As such, the course facilitates a wide range of skills, relating to formal written and spoken communication; social, historical and literary contextual research; critical analysis, philosophical enquiry and much more besides. Students will study and discuss a wide range of modern and classical texts and develop the confidence to appreciate, write about and discuss them. A level Lit students have gone on to become lawyers, journalists, broadcasters, novelists, lecturers and much more besides.

Course content:

Content is divided into two main areas, each of which are examined at the end of the course. Paper 1 covers pre-1900 Drama and Poetry, including the study of a Shakespeare play, and a context-based comparison between Victorian poetry and Jacobean revenge tragedy. Paper 2 focuses on a comparison between two Gothic texts (one of them modern), as well as an unseen critical appreciation. In addition, there are two coursework tasks – close analysis / recreation of modern poetry, a comparison between a modern novel and an American play.

How is the course taught and assessed?

The course is delivered by two teachers, each taking responsibility for one paper. Much classwork is discussion based, where passages or sections of a text are prepared in advance, ready to be picked apart in lessons. The Department works with hierarchical learning taxonomies, and a series of carefully-tailored 'Assessment Objective Toolkit' tasks, to hone students' independent study skills. Full written assignments are set each term, and are based on the models set in external examinations.

Entry requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements for BWS, a grade 6 in English Literature and a grade 6 in English Language.

Results information:

Over the last three years, 75% of students achieved grades A* - B at A level

Top destinations for students:

Students go to a range of universities to study related courses, including Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, Royal Holloway, Manchester and UCL.

Beyond the curriculum:

The English Department is keen to organise theatre trips whenever there is a relevant production running. We frequently take students to The Globe in London, or to the RSC at Stratford, as well as other major venues. We often invite speakers from the world of The Arts to speak to students, and there are countless other opportunities to help support groups for younger pupils, join the school's vibrant play productions or help run reading groups, plus much more besides. Public Speaking and Debating are particularly strong within the school, the former being run by a member of the English Department. Literature students can also get involved in the running of *Wordsworth*, the school magazine, the editor usually being an English Lit student!

In addition, for students wishing to apply to study English at Oxford or Cambridge, we can offer support sessions for sitting the ELAT and for interviews.