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Our Aims

“We aim to create a passion for reading and a love of the English language.”

Department Information

The English department is situated on first floor of the school overlooking the courtyard. Our team currently holds 12 members with a variety of specialisms. Of the nine dedicated English classrooms, each is equipped to support a variety of different teaching methods including Active Inspire Whiteboards, Promethean PODS, mini whiteboards and of course books, lots and lots of books.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 is designed to specifically meet the needs of the new, rigorous GCSEs whilst promoting a love of literature that will hopefully last a life-time. Each year the students will study one whole text in detail, before expanding into where that text sits in both a literary and historical context. There is also the opportunity to study a wealth of text from Shakespeare to Armitage; poetry and prose and become independent learners through author studies and individual projects.

The home learning opportunities provided at Key Stage Three allow students to take ownership of their own learning. Projects have been designed to enhance the learning in class and allow students to pick an author or concept that they wish to study in more detail.

Key Stage 4 English

With amplified importance placed upon the passing of core subjects such as English, Maths and Science by the government and, increasingly, by a range of employers, KS4 English is a hive of learning activities within the academy.

Year 10

At North Oxfordshire Academy, all students are given the opportunity to study both English language and English literature at GCSE. All students follow the new AQA GCSE courses. This course gives students, of all levels, the opportunity to experience English through a variety of different mediums and texts. We have carefully devised modules which aim to cater for the various needs of all of our students at the same time ensuring that students have the opportunity to perfect key exam skills and assessment objectives.

We aim to present students with a wealth of texts from murder and deceit in Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, to war and conflict in a variety of poetry and communist Russia in *Animal Farm*. This is integrating the specific exam specification requirements but at the same time attempting to develop a crucial interest in literature.

English language is taught as a discrete subject which allows students to really focus on the key skills needed to achieve well in the subject.

The courses are outline below:

English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one literature fiction text <p>Section B: Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• descriptive or narrative writing	<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text <p>Section B: Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• writing to present a viewpoint
<p>Assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• 80 marks• 50% of GCSE	<p>Assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• 80 marks• 50% of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)• 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)• 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks) <p>Writing (40 marks) (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)	<p>Questions</p> <p>Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)• 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)• 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks) <p>Writing (40 marks) (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shakespeare plays• The 19th-century novel	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern prose or drama texts• The poetry anthology• Unseen poetry
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• 64 marks• 40% of GCSE	How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes• 96 marks• 60% of GCSE
Questions <p>Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.</p> <p>Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.</p>	Questions <p>Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.</p> <p>Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.</p> <p>Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.</p>

Year 11

In year 11, all of our students will study for the AQA GCSE exams. We have carefully devised modules which aim to cater for the various needs of all of our students at the same time ensuring that students have the opportunity to perfect key exam skills and assessment objectives.

We aim to present students with a wealth of texts from murder and deceit in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, to forgotten dreams in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, witch trials in *The Crucible* and the tale of a group of boys rapid descent into savagery in *The Lord of the Flies*. This is integrating the specific exam specification requirements but at the same time attempting to develop a crucial interest in literature.

English Literature KS5

Challenging and thought provoking. English Literature builds on your reading and analytical skills of Key Stage 4, but challenges your opinions and preconceived notions about English Literature and Literature in the English Language through the study of the contexts in which texts were written and the ways in which texts have been interpreted across time. The skills you develop will serve you well for a variety of professions, as well as continuing on to Higher Education, particularly if you are interested in English, drama, history or journalism – although it is not just limited to these areas. English Literature is highly regarded in all institutions as a qualification of excellence that will have enhanced your analytical mind and broadened your knowledge. English Literature is also considered to be a facilitating subject for Russell Group universities.

What you will study on the course

You will study through 6 lessons a week, where we will read and discuss four texts under the following categories:

Aspects of Tragedy

Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing

How you will study on the course

Title of Qualification

A-Level English Literature AQA

If you would like more information, you can find the specification [here](#).

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

At A level, it is expected that you will complete 90 minutes of home learning each week. Home learning is often preparatory, with pupils being expected to come to class having read and engaged with the text in order to analyse and discuss.

KS5 English: AS English Language

Studying AS Level English Language enables students to build on the skills they've developed at GCSE, by engaging the students creatively and critically with a wide range of up-to-date content that reflects contemporary language study. The course is divided into two sections 'Language and the individual' focusing on individual contexts and 'Language varieties' which expands outwards to consider the language used by social groups, geographical regions and countries.

The skills a student will develop while studying for AS English Language include critical reading, data analysis, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and a variety of writing skills all of which assist in preparing students for both further study and future employment.

How you will study on the course

Title of Qualification

AS-Level English Language, AQA

If you would like more information, you can find the specification [here](#).

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

At both AS and A2 level, we expect a minimum of 3 hours study per week outside of lesson time – research, revision, coursework, and clarification. Students also have study time timetabled in, to make use of academy facilities.

What will you need to study this course?

5 x A-C at GCSE

A B grade in English / English Literature

Key Stage 5 English: A level English Literature

What you will study on the course:

You will have three scheduled lessons a week, where we will read and discuss a range of texts as well as preparing you for your coursework and for the unseen element of your exam.

The course is structured around the theme 'Aspects of Tragedy, and explores different presentations of tragedy in novels, short stories, drama, poetry and non-fiction. The exact texts studied depend partly on the personalities and interests of the class although Shakespeare is a compulsory element. The current cohort will be studying texts as varied as *Othello*, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Kite Runner*.

Key Stage 5 English: A2 English Language

PAPER 1: Language, the individual and society

This area of study introduces students to methods of language analysis to explore concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. It also introduces students to the study of children's language development, exploring how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language.

PAPER 2: Language diversity and change

Students will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. They will explore processes of language change. This part of the subject content also requires students to study social attitudes to, and debates about language diversity and change.

COURSEWORK: Language investigation and original writing

The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore and analyse language data independently and develop and reflect upon their own writing expertise. It requires students to carry out two different kinds of individual research:

- a language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)
- a piece of original writing and commentary (750 words each).

Students can choose to pursue a study of spoken, written or multimodal data, or a mixture of text types, demonstrating knowledge in areas of individual interest.