



Wirral Grammar School for Boys 6th Y11 A-level Options 2022.

FAQ Information Sheet for: ENGLISH LITERATURE

Dear students,

Please refer to information and watch the video prepared by the department. These resources will allow you to gain an insight into studying this subject at A level. These are available [here](#):

The WGSB6 Prospectus can also be viewed online [here](#). Careful consideration of these resources will assist you in making the appropriate subject choices for you.

You are advised to consider this material before you attend the marketplace activities in January 2023.

Frequently asked questions:

Why should I choose English Literature?

English Literature is a valuable foundation for any degree or career requiring excellent written communication, research and analytical skills. It brings history to life and engages with ideas and concepts that are central to human life and experience. You will learn how express informed and independent opinions and gain insight into key literary influences on our culture and society.

What skills will Literature help me build?

Studying Literature not only widens your appreciation of literature but helps you build valuable transferable skills. It will develop your **independent and critical thinking** – you will be able to **analyse sophisticated ideas** and how they are presented. You will develop the ability to **build convincing arguments**. You will also develop an **effective formal communication style** – essential for further study and any career that relies on effective communication.

What university courses does A-Level Literature useful for?

The Russell Group Informed Choices guide recommends Literature as a facilitating subject for degrees as diverse as Law, History, Classics, Politics, and Business & Finance. Recent WGSB students of Literature have gone on to study: Architecture, Business management, Classics, Economics, English language, English literature, History, Law, and Politics.

What results have the department previously achieved?

English Literature is a consistently high-achieving department which has seen 3 of its students attain places at Oxbridge in the past 4 years. The majority of our students gain a B or above – regardless of performance at GCSE.

What will I study?

Literature A Level is split into three parts:

Elements of Crime explore themes of guilt, remorse, retribution and violence. We read classic poetry by Wilde, Crabbe and Browning. Our novels are *Brighton Rock*, the classic 1930s story of gang warfare in the dark underworld of Brighton, and *When Will There Be Good News* – a gripping and atmospheric detective thriller.

Elements of Tragedy reading *Othello* (with key themes of love, jealousy, revenge and death) and *Death of a Salesman*, a powerful play about dreams, reality and loss of identity. We also look at some classic narrative poems by John Keats.

Theory and Independence allows you to choose your own texts for study. We explore different ways of reading that include narrative theory, post-colonialism, Marxism, feminism and eco-criticism.

How will I be assessed?

Elements of Crime and Tragedy are assessed in two examinations at the end of Y13

Theory and Independence is assessed via two essays which can be either a conventional analysis or a recreative creative piece of writing which we begin in Y12.

Any other questions?

Feel free to come and see Mrs Abernethy (En3), Mrs Campbell (En2) or Dr Warren (En4)