

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE and ENGLISH LITERATURE

## COURSE DETAILS

All students will work towards two GCSEs, in **English Language and English Literature**.

Exam Board: AQA  
Specification Code: 8700 (English Language); 8702 (English Literature)  
Website: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700/specification>  
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification>

### English Language

In English Language, students will study creative reading and writing, responding to and creating fiction and non-fiction, exploring writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

They are assessed through exams at the end of Year 11, with two 1 ¾ hour papers, each worth 50% of the GCSE in English Language. Students' reading will be assessed by a series of questions - some on a single text, others asking students to make links. The questions carry a variety of marks, from shorter four-mark questions to longer (20 mark) responses. In extended writing, two fifths of the marks are awarded for technical accuracy so being able to write engaging and accurate texts to meet the needs of a variety of audiences and purposes will be practised extensively. Although not weighted in terms of the GCSE grade, there is also a speaking and listening component. Students will give a presentation which will be formally assessed and recorded separately on students' qualifications certificates.

### English Literature

For English Literature, students will complete an exam on Shakespeare and a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel (40% of the GCSE). Students will study the texts in class and the exam will ask them to analyse closely a specific extract, as well as demonstrate their understanding and interpretation of the text as a whole. The remaining 60% of the GCSE is based on modern texts and poetry, responding to modern prose or drama as well as seen and unseen poetry.

**MISS V ARCHER**