

# Carshalton Boys A level

## English Literature

Within the English Department at Carshalton Boys, we are looking to offer an interesting and challenging course that both builds on students' early literary experience and opens new areas of interest to them. The object of A Level English Literature is, in the exam board's own words, *'to develop students' interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they read widely and independently'* and to *'engage creatively with a substantial body of texts'*; however, we look to go beyond this. We want our subject to be a springboard for our students to understand and shape the world around them.

Unlike at GCSE, there is no need to learn set quotes for A Level English Literature as all exams have an open book policy. Instead, it is about your perspective, your understanding and your ability to argue persuasively. A student of English Literature will enjoy reading, discussing, thinking and writing about a wide range of texts, but, most importantly, will always have an opinion. In terms of specific content, as well as the examination texts set out below, students deal with a number of other texts and will be involved in various trips, sessions and extra-curricular developmental opportunities. With this in mind, the high-level study of English is essential to anyone planning a career in which confident written and spoken communication is required: for example, journalism, law, human resources, advertising and sales. However, the course will equip you with ideas and develop thinking and language skills which would be useful in any line of employment. English Literature combines well with closely related subjects like Media Studies and History or complementary ones such as Psychology, Government & Politics or Art. Many students, however, successfully combine their enjoyment of English Literature with the study of subjects which demand a very different approach, such as the sciences or Mathematics.

The successful student must have a grade 6 or above in both GCSE English and English Literature.

### ASSESSMENT and CONTENT

Three final examinations at the end of Year 13 and one coursework piece (totalling 2500–3000 words on two texts chosen by students).

Drama:	Hamlet and A Streetcar Named Desire
Prose:	The Picture of Dorian Gray and Beloved
Poetry:	Poems of the Decade Contemporary Poetry and The Victorian Poetry Anthology

*The course requirements...*

*Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English & English Literature*