

## English Staff

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## Aims of the department

The English Faculty at the Skegness Academy are passionate about Language and Literature. We want our students to be as passionate as we are. We believe that reading is fundamental for students to be able to excel in English as it opens their minds and imagination as well as helping to develop their vocabulary and grasp of grammar. Our aim is to develop the skills of our learners so that they become great communicators whilst also developing an appreciation of the writing of others.

Literature allows us to introduce students to a range of social, political and cultural issues. Texts are carefully selected and students will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts across each of the key stages as they develop their analytical skills. Through the exploration of the writing of others, we promote the importance of being able to have a voice of your own. Both oral and written communication is valued highly and students are taught these distinct skills. Emphasis is placed on the accuracy of written communication and time is dedicated to ensuring that students secure the key skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

During each key stage, we ensure that the building blocks are put in place for students to succeed and to prepare them for the next stage of their learning journey.

## **Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)**

### **What will students study?**

Our aim is to develop each student's confidence and ability as a language user. This means that we are looking to achieve a balance between speaking and listening, reading and writing. Most lessons will include an element of each, and homework will similarly involve reading and research as well as more conventional writing assignments.

Students will have opportunities to draft their writing taking their work through several stages of planning and shaping ideas before they commit themselves to a final product. Developing accuracy is important, we also recognise the crucial role of imagination, interesting opinions and thoughtful material, which are the essence of successful writing.

We want our students to be independent readers and we encourage them to bring into the classroom their own choice of books and general reading as a starting point for sharing and discussion. Parents may feel that they can play a part here in supporting the reading done by the students at home. We have successfully launched the Accelerated Reader scheme, where students are able to take quizzes on the books they read, testing their comprehension and understanding of an increasingly varied vocabulary. Teachers, parents and students themselves will be able to track progress and see reading ages accelerate as the programme develops. We also aim to ensure that the children benefit from a wide diet of literature by contemporary and established authors including poetry and drama as well as novels and short stories that are embedded into varied schemes of learning. Language and literature are at the heart of our teaching and we want students to value them as a way of exploring personal experience and social and moral issues.

Speaking and learning go together in the classroom. Students are given the chance to join in discussion on their work as it progresses both with the teacher and within working groups. Presentation, role-play and reporting to the class as a whole are also valuable in building the students' confidence. Most importantly, students are encouraged to share their own ideas and opinions, and to bring their own view and experiences into the classroom. We intend to make the learning relevant, stimulating as well as enjoyable!

All students will follow a literacy course, which is designed to improve skills and knowledge in English. This will allow students the opportunity to read and interpret written English, write more accurately, express themselves with confidence and develop creative expression.

### **How will students be assessed?**

Assessment in English is ongoing through observation of the students at work, through review of completed writing, and through discussion between individual students and the teacher. Students' work is completed in class books; it is marked regularly, with verbal feedback given every lesson to enable swift progress.

Assessment criteria follows the Whole School Assessment Policy, and students work with staff to set themselves individual targets.

### **Key Stage 4 (Years 9,10 and 11)**

#### **What course do students follow?**

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
Specification code: 8700

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE  
Specification code: 8702

#### **What will students study?**

The majority of pupils will study English Language and English Literature: two separate and distinctive GCSE subjects, which are taught in combination across the two/three year course.

GCSE English Language aims to equip you with the reading and writing skills essential for your future lives. The course has been designed to inspire and motivate pupils, providing stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that a range of fiction and non-fiction texts are accessible to all. The course will enable pupils to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a range of texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st Century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

GCSE English Literature takes a skills based approach to the study of English Literature that is consistent across a range of genres and texts over time. Again, the texts chosen are inspiring and challenging with assessment through close analysis of whole texts and then through extract analysis. 19th, 20th and 21st Century texts will be covered and include Shakespeare, poetry, plays and novels; texts are selected to ensure all abilities can meet their potential.

### **Details of Assessment**

Both GCSE English Language and English Literature are assessed through un-tiered, closed book terminal examination. In addition to this pupils will receive a separate endorsement for their spoken language skills.

#### **English Language**

Paper 1: Examination (50%)

Explorations in creative reading and writing.

Paper 2: Examination (50%)

Writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

Non-Examination Assessment:

Spoken Language

### English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel (40%)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (60%)

### Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

### English Literature

A-level English Literature is an exciting and challenging course where students are invited to explore texts alongside their social, cultural and historical background. This course encourages students to use facilities outside the classroom to further engage their interest in the subject.

### YEAR 12

This year students will be studying for an AS in English Literature with two examinations totalling 100% of your final grade. The marks from their AS will not be brought forward next year. The AS is separate from the A-level studied for in Year 13. However, the texts studied this year will be studied alongside others for the A-level in Year 13. In Year 12 students will have two teachers and study for two examinations. A two-hour exam on Poetry and Drama consists of the study of Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry and Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire. Across the three text genres, students are invited to explore these texts from a variety of critical perspectives. Lessons involve a combination of collaborative and independent work; both of which require a personal and evaluative voice.

### YEAR 13

During Year 13 students will be assessed on the texts they studied in Year 12. Alongside these, they will study a Shakespearian tragedy and some pre-1900 poetry (Metaphysical). There is a coursework opportunity for the A Level English literature, worth 20%. Students are required to plan and write a 2,000 word essay comparing two prose texts. The coursework will commence during the summer term of Year 12 with a view to complete a draft over the summer holidays.

## **Where can I find more information?**

More information about the courses can be found using the links below.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

## **Assessment resources**

Specimen paper questions can be found using the links below.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources>

## **Usefully links for English:**

- KS3

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv> (English Language)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zykdmp3> (English Literature)

- KS4

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty> (English Language)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zckw2hv> (English Literature) For English Lit texts

<http://www.shmoop.com/>

<http://www.sparknotes.com/>

- Shakespeare: A brilliant series of videos from the Royal Shakespeare Company

<http://bit.ly/2pNTG3f>

## Books

Revision guides

- CGP revision guide for AQA Power and Conflict anthology

[https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books.productSearch.book\\_ACHR43](https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books.productSearch.book_ACHR43)

- CGP Spelling, Punctuation and grammar guide for GCSE

[https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books.productSearch.book\\_EGR42](https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books.productSearch.book_EGR42)

- CGP Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar workbook for KS3

[https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books.productSearch.book\\_EGW31B](https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books.productSearch.book_EGW31B)

- AQA GCSE English Language Revision Guide

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/English-Language-Complete-Revision-Practice-ebook/dp/B01I5B9WCW/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swach\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.co.uk/English-Language-Complete-Revision-Practice-ebook/dp/B01I5B9WCW/ref=tmm_kin_swach_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

- AQA GCSE English Language Revision Workbook

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revise-English-Language-Revision-Workbook/dp/1447987837>

Blogs for Yr12 & 13

- Year 12 English Literature Blog: <http://alevelenglishhaunyear12.blogspot.co.uk/>

- Year 13 English Literature Blog: <http://alevelenglishhaunyear13.blogspot.co.uk/>

## Other helpful texts

- 'Springboard Shakespeare: Macbeth' by Ben Crystal

- York Notes GCSE (for your specific Literature text)