



Oxford Spires Academy

Department of English

In the OSA English department, we strive to nurture our students' love of literature. We are especially proud of our curriculum and have developed this so that it encapsulates a diverse yet balanced worldly experience whilst provoking and challenging students' ideas and opinions.

Our aim is to expose students to a range of brilliant texts to deepen their understanding of how the written and spoken word can reflect social, cultural, political and historical issues whilst developing their ability to communicate in a clear, effective and imaginative way. Whilst exam success is important, our aim in English is to ensure that every student we teach develops knowledge, skill, understanding, empathy and experience that stays with them to the exam hall and far beyond.

We are also exceptionally proud of the extra-curricular opportunities we offer to students, from lunch time Shakespeare clubs to creative writing workshops and live poetry events to debating societies; there is something available for all students!

KS3

We see KS3 as an opportunity for students to completely immerse themselves in the wonderful world of English literature. Reading and studying a range of diverse texts and voices is at the heart of our curriculum so students will explore everything from Chaucer to Nikesh Shukla; Shakespeare to Malorie Blackman. Our curriculum and assessment is progressive so students will secure core reading and writing skills in Year 7, revisit and develop in Year 8 and refine in Year 9. Students will return to specific topics in Years 7-9, each time delving further into form, genre, themes and context.



KS4

In KS4 we build on the knowledge and skills taught in KS3 to prepare students for their English Language and English Literature GCSEs. We study texts from the canon, including Romeo and Juliet, A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls as well as a collection of poetry from the Belonging cluster that explores what it means to be a part of different communities, cultures, times and places. In Year 10 and first term of Year 11 we focus on the content of our key texts so that majority of Year 11 is dedicated to refining students' knowledge and skills to give them the best possible opportunity to achieve at GCSE.

Edexcel English Language and Literature

English Language	
Paper 1 Fiction and Imaginative Writing	Paper 2 Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing
40% of GCSE	60% GCSE
1hr 45 minutes	2hrs 5 minutes
Section A Students will be required to complete a series of reading questions based on a 19th century fiction extract.	Section A Students will be required to complete a series of reading questions based on a 20th and 21st non-fiction extract.
Section B Students will be required to complete a writing task in response to a stimulus.	Section B Students will be required to complete a writing task in response to a stimulus.

English Literature

Paper 1 Shakespeare and post 1914 text	Paper 2 19th Century Fiction and Poetry
50% of GCSE	50% of GCSE
1hr 45 minutes	2hrs 15 minutes
Section A Students will be asked to write a response to a play by William Shakespeare. There are two parts of this question: the first is based on an extract from the play; the second assess students' understanding of the whole play.	Section A Students will be asked to write a response to a 19th century novel. There are two parts of this question: the first is based on an extract from the play; the second assess students' understanding of the whole novel.
Section B Students will be asked to write a response to a post 1914 text.	Section B Students will be required to write a response to poems from an anthology studied in class AND unseen poetry.

“I chose English Literature because worlds of fiction are fascinating and immersive”

“English Literature is a really exciting subject that exposes you to different people’s stories and histories, challenges you to analyse writers’ crafts, and forces you to examine yourself through analysis of characters”

“English Literature is very enjoyable. We watch films, analyse books and have excellent debates and discussions”

KS5

We offer both A-Level Language (AQA) and A-Level Literature (Edexcel) In both of these courses, students will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of literature, how language and meaning has changed over time and how texts can reflect key social, historical and cultural changes.

