



Ripon Grammar School

Dear Student

We are delighted that you've chosen to study A Level English Literature with us starting this September. You are about to embark on a rich, challenging, and deeply rewarding course that will sharpen your mind, broaden your perspectives, and expand your love of reading and writing.

From the very first lesson, you'll find that English Literature at A Level is discursive at its core. We don't just read texts: we explore, interrogate, and debate them. Every lesson is a conversation: about meaning, about context, about how language shapes thought and how literature both reflects and reshapes the world. Your voice matters in these discussions, and we encourage you to come ready to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and listen thoughtfully to others.

As we study a range of powerful texts, classic and modern, you'll be developing high-level writing skills that go far beyond GCSE. Argument, structure, critical style, and originality are key. We'll help you find your own critical voice and express complex ideas with clarity and confidence.

Equally important is the culture of wider reading that underpins A Level study. You'll be introduced to new writers, different genres, and diverse critical viewpoints. The more widely you read, the richer your understanding and the more nuanced your interpretations will become. Don't wait until September to begin this journey. Every book you read now adds something to the conversation you'll be joining in class.

To help you begin the transition, we've prepared some transition work which you should complete over the summer. It's designed to stretch your thinking and give you a flavour of the kinds of analysis and reflection we'll be doing throughout the course. This will begin our first lesson.

- [Making the Leap: moving from GCSE to A Level Literature Study](#)
- [Literary Critical Practices](#)
- [Critical Readings – 3 Little pigs](#)
- [I am yours forever – love through the ages](#)
- [The evolution of the novel](#)
- [The games poets play](#)

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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If you are keen to go beyond this transition work and would like to look at our specification in more detail, we follow AQA English Literature A, including the Modern Times option for Paper 2.

We're looking forward to welcoming you into the department and beginning this exciting next chapter with you. Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!

Best wishes

Mr. Johnson
Head of English

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