

EXTENSION ENGLISH

In the second year of your English course, if you are particularly interested in studying English at university and are on course for a grade A at A-level, there is the opportunity to attend extension classes in English on a Wednesday afternoon.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

In order to support your studies we will encourage you to participate in the wide range of activities which are organised by the department. These include visits to language and literature conferences, creative writing workshops (including a regular poetry writing enrichment course) and theatre visits. The journalism enrichment course is also a popular option for keen writers, leading to the publication of the college magazine.

CAREERS AND DESTINATIONS

A qualification in English is seen as valuable by employers and educational institutions alike. Moreover, an A-level in English Language or English Literature is evidence of the high standard of a student's verbal skills, while the human dimensions of the subjects make them personally and socially relevant.

Our A-level students combine English Language or English Literature with a wide variety of other subjects and progress to an equally broad selection of careers. Every year up to 50 students go on to higher education to read for a degree in English or in related subjects such as media studies or humanities. Destinations have included the universities of St Andrew's, Nottingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Lancaster, Stirling, Sussex, Hull, York, Huddersfield, Manchester, Kings College London, University College London, Queen Mary and Westfield University of London, Durham, Pembroke College Cambridge, New College Oxford, St Catherine's College Oxford and University College Oxford and colleges such as Trinity and All Saints' Leeds and St Martin's Lancaster.

Our departmental records show that our ex-students have taken up careers in nursing, the law, personnel management, social work, journalism, publishing, speech therapy, librarianship, film production, acting, bank and building society work, radio and retail management as well as teaching and lecturing in schools and colleges here and abroad.

More information about the teaching of English AS and A-level can be found on the College website: www.greenhead.ac.uk. Complete course specifications can be found on the Examination Board websites: www.aqa.org.uk, www.ocr.org.uk.

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**GREENHEAD COLLEGE
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

The English department offers AS and A-level courses in (i) English Language (ii) English Literature and (iii) English Language and Literature. We are proud of the successes of our students both in terms of their examination results and the personal satisfaction they derive from their studies. The A-level pass rate has remained well above the national average and, in recent years, well over half the passes have been at grades A and B. Some idea of the destinations of our students is given at the end of this leaflet.

Group sizes are usually around 20, allowing scope for discussion and for individual attention by the teacher. Written work is regularly set and marked; oral work and reading form an integral part of all courses.

AS AND A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE (OCR)

You'll already know, from your GCSE studies, some of the appeal of literature. You'll know that it can move you and make you more aware of your own and others' experience, and leads you to face some of the big moral and philosophical issues. Studying literature at AS and A-level will take you further into the exploration of some of the most interesting fiction, poetry and drama of modern times as well as that of the past. You will explore the ideas expressed in literature but also study the craft of writing and how writers use literary techniques to create meaning.

Perhaps most importantly of all, you'll become aware that the way you react to a text may not be same as the way others do, and you'll be expected to consider why that is. That's why class discussions and disagreements are an important part of your learning. As well as seeing plays on video and on stage, you will also be given a general reading list from which we hope you will read widely.

The AS qualification comprises two modules studied in one year and will involve the study of at least six texts, including at least one text of literary criticism. One of the modules will be coursework. The first unit is a closed text examination on literature written between 1800 and 1945 and will include the study of poetry and prose, complemented by a work of literary criticism. The second unit (coursework) will comprise three texts written after 1900 including one written after 1990. These texts will be linked in some way.

The A-level qualification comprises two more modules in the second year of the course and will involve the study of at least five texts. The first is a closed text examination on Drama and Poetry pre-1800. This will include Shakespeare. The second A-level module is coursework and is intended to develop research skills and will be based around extended individual study within a choice of topics, for

example, the Gothic, feminist perspectives, perspectives on America, Romanticism etc.

If you are considering English Studies at university you should be aware that the traditional and widely accepted route is via English Literature.

AS AND A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE (AQA Spec A)

If you decide to study English Language at AS-level, you'll find that it is very different from what you've done at GCSE. You'll be looking at how professional writers adjust their language according to their readership and purposes (and in the process apply a range of linguistic terms that will be new to you). You'll also be looking at the language of speech and conversation—as well as new developments in electronic language. You'll be answering questions such as *How do we create relationships in conversation*, and *Do we talk only to "communicate" ideas? Are there rules in conversation?* In addition, you'll be expected to learn how children learn to talk and write in the early years of their life, and consider the various theories that try to explain how we learn to talk so effortlessly.



The coursework component involves you doing a small investigation into how different writers "represent" (or write about, and possibly put a spin on) a topic of your choice (such as a news story, a person or group of people, an institution such as the monarchy, or events such as a war.) You'll also be expected to write something on similar topics in a genre other than an essay—such as a feature article—and then write an account on why you wrote it as you did.

In the second year, there is a larger coursework investigation to do, and the exam topics now cover historical areas, the study of accents, dialects and attitudes to them.



AS AND A-LEVEL LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE



The combined course allows you to pursue your interest in literature with a focus on prose, poetry and drama from different times combined with investigations into how language conveys precise meanings and creates stylistic effects. If you enjoy reading widely, discussing and analysing fiction and non-fiction, and can rise to the challenge of adapting studied texts for specified audiences, then the course should appeal to you. By the end of the course, you will have developed

and refined your approaches to both creative writing and close analysis of up to six set texts.

AS consists of two units, both examined at the end of the first year. The study of two novels, one modern and one 19th century, will allow you to produce writing based on plot, characterisation and themes, in the form of diaries, first person accounts and magazine articles. We will have the opportunity to discuss the authors' style and narrative techniques, allowing you to develop a critical and analytical approach. A second AS unit covers the study of speech in drama and in real life.

For coursework in the A-level year, you will undertake a comparative study of a collection of poetry and a Shakespeare play. This extended essay will allow you to consolidate and extend your interpretation of literature on both the thematic and linguistic levels. The final unit will examine you on everything you have



learned about approaching and analysing unseen and non-fiction texts. For this, you will study an anthology of biographical and travel writing and practise writing to persuade, inform and entertain a range of audiences. Please note that you will need to be a willing and confident writer as all creative responses are completed in examination conditions.