



## English A Level at Lady Margaret School

English A Level Teachers: Mr Rachel Alexander (Head of Department), Miss Kate Poulton (2<sup>nd</sup> in Department), Ms Nicola Lupton (Deputy Head), Miss Lucy Murray, Mrs Laura Graham, Mrs Octavia Ward, Ms Ruth Irwin

### Why study English Literature A level?

English Literature A level is a highly respected academic qualification, which is classed as an 'enabling subject' by Russell Group universities. This means that it will help prepare you well for the most competitive degree courses. It is an excellent preparation for University study of Languages, Humanities, Law and of course, English. It can also complement Science subjects: two of our highest achieving students in A Level last year have gone on to read Economics and Biological Sciences. Studying English can lead to a variety of stimulating and rewarding careers in the arts, politics, law, journalism, publishing, media and academia. The A level is also extremely enjoyable: If you like reading and discussing books and have enjoyed your GCSE English course you are well suited to English A level.

### How are English groups arranged?

English at A level is taught in small mixed ability groups. Generally there are between 10-15 students in each teaching class and students have 12 lessons of English a fortnight (six with each of their two teachers).

### What is covered on the A Level Course?

We follow the AQA A Level syllabus (Specification A). We believe that this course provides an engaging mix of texts, fair examination requirements and a good transition from GCSE to A level.

An overview of the course is set out below:

Two year A Level Course at LMS (provisional text choices)			
Unit	Texts and topics	% weighting	Time / word count
<b>Component 1:</b> <b>Love Through the Ages</b> (Examination)	Section A: Shakespeare <i>The Winter's Tale</i> Section B: Unseen Poetry Section C: Comparison of <i>The Great Gatsby</i> and an anthology of Pre 1900 Love Poetry	40 % A Level	<b>3 hour</b> closed book exam. A mix of open and closed book questions.
<b>Component 2:</b> <b>Texts in Shared Contexts (Modern Literature 1945-present day)</b> (Examination)	Section A. Set Text Essay: <i>Skirrid Hill</i> by Owen Shears Section B: Unseen Extract Analysis Section C: One essay comparing <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> by Margaret Atwood and <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams	40% A Level	<b>2 hour</b> open book exam. Clean copies of the books may be taken into the examination hall.
<b>Component 3:</b> <b>Independent Critical Study</b> (Coursework)	An essay based on the reading of two texts from two different authors: one pre-1900. The starting point for this is exploring gothic texts in class.	20% A Level	<b>2500 words</b>

### **What are your key strengths?**

Our teachers are an incredibly strong team and we plan lessons that are engaging, purposeful and promote progress for all pupils. We have many years' experience successfully teaching A Level at LMS and we draw from this and our own experience in order to share ideas and resources. Members of the Department examine at A Level so that we can best advise our students on exam performance and strategy. Pupils can expect regular, constructive feedback and for their teacher to really care about their progress. Our A level classes are characterised by enthusiasm, discussion and strong relationships between pupils and teachers. We have extremely high standards of our A level students because we are ambitious for them. Therefore, we will expect strong contributions to lessons, perseverance in written work, excellent homework and significant independent study. However, we offer a supportive and caring environment where we are always ready to help; above all we value your progress and will support you to succeed.

### **What Extra-Curricular Activities and Cross-Curricular work do you do?**

We pride ourselves on offering a rich variety of extra-curricular activities in English and A Level Students take an active role in participation and running these clubs. We have a Senior Debating club which competes successfully in competitions against other schools. There is a Literary Society for Years 12 – 13 who meet regularly for discussion but also attend outside theatre productions and lectures: We have attended lectures at Latymer School and Francis Holland School where our students have benefitted from listening to outside speakers. Sixth Form English students help to run the school newspaper, Her Lady's Voice. The Drama Department puts on an annual school production that Sixth Formers can take part in and we run theatre trips and workshops.

### **How do you assess pupils at KS5?**

You can expect to complete an assessment in English approximately every half term which will receive an estimated A Level grade. These are used to give you feedback, give you an indication of the level at which you are performing and inform you about how to improve. The A Level is assessed at the end of Year 13 except for Coursework that you will complete during Year 13 and hand in by March of that year.

### **What is your Homework policy in Year 12?**

Our expectation is that students complete at least one hour of independent study for each teaching hour, so approximately 12 hours a fortnight. We set an extended written task approximately every week. We also expect A level students to be reading widely both for pleasure and to support their study on the course- we give out reading lists throughout the year to supplement their studies.

### **What are your results?**

Last year our results at A Level were outstanding. Of the twenty four students sitting the exams, half of the cohort achieved an A or A\* grade and have gone on to top universities.

English Literature A Level 2019	
A*-A	43%
A*-B	75%
A*-C	96%

### **What are your entry requirements?**

It is preferable that you have at least a grade 7 in GCSE English Literature as this is the subject most relevant to the course and will give you the best indication of whether you will do well at A level. The minimum is a grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

**What if I have any further questions?**

We love nothing more than talking about doing English A Level! If you are at LMS, please feel free to chat to your English teacher or any Sixth Formers studying English. Our English academic prefects are Sophie Boulton, Amelie Knight and Miya Nuguse. You are also welcome to drop into the English office to speak to us.

If you are applying from another school, please feel free to ask any questions by email to Miss Kate Poulton ([kpoulton@ladymargaret.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:kpoulton@ladymargaret.lbhf.sch.uk))