

# AQA A Level English Literature A



## Studying English at Newman

Students may benefit from a range of extra-curricular activities to complement their classroom work.

- *Cinema and theatre trips*
- *Study days in London*
- *Workshops led by subject experts*

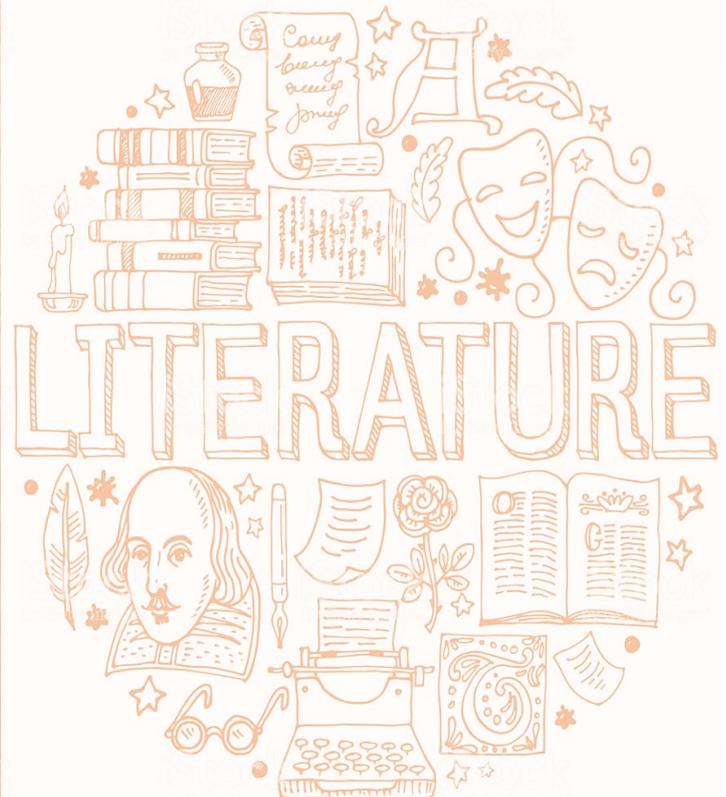
Students have seven lessons a fortnight and these are led by a team of two teachers.

Students need to be aware that there is an expectation that all texts taught need to be read independently outside of allocated teaching time. There also needs to be a commitment to wider reading in addition to the core texts taught.

The English Department is committed to providing a broad, in depth English education for all its students. We aim to create a natural progression from GCSE to A Level where students are encouraged to build on their individual strengths and talents to create ambitious and challenging responses and interpretations.

We ask that students purchase copies of all the set texts studied for the qualification. This enables the student to annotate and makes notes on their own texts which will aid them in revision. A book list will be provided on the taster day in June.

Help, where required, is available to assist in this expense.



## Why Literature?

Students who choose Literature are not only looking to study a subject that is recognised and sought after by institutes of higher education; they are fascinated by the written word.

Literature offers students the opportunity to learn about history, politics, linguistics, art and culture.

Students who study A Level Literature will explore not only works established as part of the literary canon but also exciting contemporary texts, including those from other cultures.

### Who takes the subject?

*Students who thrive in English Literature:*

- Are able to debate and think critically
- Are interested in researching and reading around the set texts
- Are interested in engaging with other historical periods, ideologies and forms of expression
- Enjoy presenting and writing about texts in depth
- Have achieved at least a Grade 5 in either English or English Literature at GCSE
- Are independent and creative thinkers who question the ideas the writers present
- Enjoy theatre trips and further study opportunities.

At Newman we follow the AQA English Literature Specification A.

In Year 12 students will study a play by Shakespeare, a modern prose text and a selection of pre 20th century poetry.

In Year 13 students will study a collection of modern poetry, a modern play and a prose text.

Students will sit an internal examination in Year 12. However, all texts are examined for the qualification at the end of Year 13.

In addition in Year 13 students get to choose two texts to study and create their own question before producing a 2500 word essay comparing these texts for their Non Exam Assessment.

### What texts are studied?

- **Othello**—Othello an enigmatic, noble outsider and great general is brought down by the plotting Iago—a force of ‘motiveless malignity’ according to Coleridge.
- **The Great Gatsby**— Nick finds himself drawn to the past and lifestyle of his millionaire neighbour, Jay Gatsby.
- An anthology selection of pre 20th century poetry about love.
- **A Streetcar Named Desire**— Disturbed Blanche DuBois moves in with her sister in New Orleans and is tormented by her brutish brother-in-law while her reality crumbles around her.
- **Feminine Gospels** - A powerful collection of poetry drawing on various sources to create visions and revisions of female identity.
- **The Handmaid's Tale** — Set in a dystopian future, a woman is forced to live as a concubine under a fundamentalist theocratic dictatorship.

## A Streetcar Named Desire



## A Level English Literature