



Sir John Lawes School
Education for a changing world

A-Level English Literature at Sir John Lawes School

Mr Herbert - Head of English





THE CURRICULUM



Year 12

- A Shakespeare play: *Othello*
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- An anthology of pre-1900 poetry
- Unseen poetry
- Comparative coursework preparation

Year 13



THE CURRICULUM



Year 12

- A Shakespeare play: *Othello*
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- An anthology of pre-1900 poetry
- Unseen poetry
- Comparative coursework preparation

Year 13

- The Penguin Anthology of First World War poetry
- *Regeneration* by Pat Barker
- *My Boy Jack* by David Haig
- Unseen prose, inspired by the First World War
- Comparative Coursework (20%)



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Why should you study A-Level English Literature at Sir John Lawes?

**IT WILL CHALLENGE YOU
INTELLECTUALLY**

If you would like to study English Literature A-Level, you will need a minimum of a grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature GCSE - preferably a grade 6 in both.

- There is a lot of work involved and a lot of essay writing
- There are difficult concepts to grasp
- There is a lot of reading
- The teaching is very different to GCSE

Students should be sure that English Literature is right for them as they are committing to it for two years.

But, if you think that it is the right choice for you, and you are willing to work hard, it will be very rewarding!





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Why should you study A-Level English Literature at Sir John Lawes?

YOU WILL DEVELOP IMPORTANT, TRANSFERABLE SKILLS



- **Research** and presenting social, historical and cultural contexts behind each text
- **Analyse** texts for form, structure and language techniques
- **Explore** different readings and interpretations of texts
- **Explore** how texts fit into literary traditions
- **Structure arguments** in response to essay questions
- **Examine audio and video** broadcasts to illuminate the study of the texts
- **Read and evaluate** literary criticism about texts and genres of literature
- **Find connections** between literary texts within and outside the course
- **Share ideas** in discussion and on web-based forums
- **Plan, research and write** a coursework essay of approximately 2500 words



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Why should you study A-Level English Literature at Sir John Lawes?

IT WILL PREPARE YOU FOR UNIVERSITY, THE WORLD OF WORK, AND FOR LIFE IN GENERAL

English Literature is a useful extra A level for scientists and medics, because it shows that you are literate.

English Literature is seen as a challenging, academic subject by all universities.

English Literature is very useful for those hoping to study Humanities and Social Sciences at university, because it provides *the best training* for structuring academic essays.

A level English Literature is not just about literature. You broaden knowledge of: philosophers; historical eras and events; art and architecture; scientific concepts; cultural history; politics; society; and psychology. You study Freud, Marx, Darwin and Aristotle, as well as writers like Shakespeare, Rossetti, Blake, Fitzgerald, Barker. the poets of the First World War, and many others.

English Literature is good for the soul. It is enriching and allows you to explore the human condition and express your own ideas about interesting topics.





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Why should you study A-Level English Literature at Sir John Lawes?

WE OFFER A NUMBER OF ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

English Literature masterclasses

Senior Reading Group

Tuition for university entry

Independent research projects

Theatre trips

Essay and creative writing competitions

Two-day trip to the battlefields





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THEATRE TRIPS

“Experiencing the play standing in the Yard made you entirely focused on the actors and how the plot develops. After the performance, we discussed how it was interesting to see how different casts and directors can completely alter the way in which the audience views each character and the play as a whole.” *Eve B, Year 13*



Year 13 students at The Globe Theatre, before a production of Shakespeare's *Othello*.



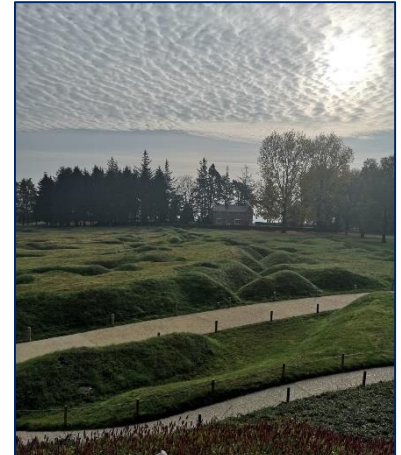


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THE BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

This is a two-day trip to the First World War battlefields and cemeteries of Northern France and Belgium. The aim is to support students' study of literature inspired by the First World War.



"The Battlefields trip was, whilst very sad and moving, an absolutely incredible experience and served to contextualise and bring to life the poetry in a way that nothing else really could." *Matt Swann, Year 13*





WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS SAY?

Why did I choose English Literature?

"I took English because it's always been a subject I want to continue at university, and I did well in my GCSE English. I've always liked the subject, particularly in Years 10 and 11."

Emma B, Year 12

What am I enjoying about the course so far?

"I am enjoying the texts that we have covered so far, and the depth we go into them. The subject is also improving my essay writing, which helps in other subjects."

Abby A, Year 12

Why did I choose English Literature?

"I took English because I enjoy reading and the course is interesting. I also knew that if I needed any help, the teachers would be happy to help me."

Sharne P, Year 12

Why did I choose English Literature?

"It allows you to be very creative and have many in-depth and interesting conversations about the texts you study with your class."

Charlotte N, Year 12

What am I enjoying about the course so far?

"So far, I am enjoying learning about the texts in depth."

Adam R, Year 12

What am I enjoying about the course so far?

"The smaller class size allows for even better discussion."

Owen V, Year 12

Why did I choose English Literature?

"I took English because it is a broad and universal subject that could take me along lots of different paths."

Mae D, Year 12

Why did I choose to study English at SJL?

"I would definitely recommend the school's English department to any external students due to its great curriculum and teachers."

Amelia S, Year 12

Why did I choose to study English at SJL?

"I decided to come to study English at SJL because the reputation and results I'd heard about were amazing (...) the teaching is insightful and supportive, and I am so glad I took the subject."

Jessica A, Year 12





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Why should you study A-Level English Literature at Sir John Lawes?

OUTSTANDING RESULTS

403

Number of English A-Level students for the last 9 years.

393

Number of A*-C grades in the past 9 years. This is 98%. The national average is 79.9%.

346

Number of A*-B grades in the past 9 years. This is 86%. The national average is 52.7%.

234

Number of A*-A grades in the past 9 years. This is 58%. The national average is 23.8%.

99

Number of A* grades in the past 8 years. This is 25%. The national average is 8.6%.

