

English

Examination board – Edexcel (English Literature)

We are following the Edexcel English Literature specification. We do not offer English Language or a combined course; the Literature option seems to suit our girls very well.

Edexcel A Level Content

The course is exciting and challenging, demanding engagement and insight. Over the course of the two years girls will study drama, novels and poetry. The drama course begins with modern American drama – *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, followed by Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the second year of study, both assessed by examination. Girls study two Victorian novels from a synoptic and contextual point of view - Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, again assessed by examination. The poetry course begins with very modern (post 2000) poetry, both seen and unseen, complemented by the study of a selection of poems by Keats. The poetry is also assessed by examination. The most challenging and exciting part of the course, undertaken in the Upper Sixth, is the independently produced coursework essay; both texts and titles are chosen by the girls to reflect their particular interests.

The focus is very clearly on an informed and thoughtful response to literature of all kinds. We are delighted that the stimulating Upper Sixth coursework has been retained in this current specification. The course should be ideal for all girls interested in literature; we welcome students who approach the subject with enthusiasm and commitment.

GCSE Entry Requirements

We would like students to have achieved grade 7 – 9 in GCSE English.

