



# NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL



## ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL - OCR

### Who is the course for?

Our A-level Literature students have an enthusiasm for reading, studying and discussing English Literature. The course focuses on critical interpretation and how context both shapes texts and determines our understanding of them.

### What can it lead to?

A Level English Literature provides an excellent foundation for degree courses in English, the Arts, Humanities, Law and Media and leads to careers in writing, journalism, politics, civil service, management, teaching, law, publishing and media. Universities value applicants who take A-level English because they have developed core skills of interpretation, evaluation and expression.

### What are the entry requirements?

Minimum of grade 5 and at least one grade 6 in either GCSE English or Literature.

### What will I study?

You will read, discuss, research and write about a range of texts including novels, drama and poetry. These range from 1300 to post 2000 and include one Shakespeare play. There is a strong focus on critical literary skills, contexts and interpretations by other readers. You will be introduced to literary theory and begin to read criticism in order to evaluate texts fully. You will learn how to construct an argument and to use textual reference to support your views. Texts taught change regularly, but this year texts include: *Hamlet*, *The Bloody Chamber*, *A Doll's House*, *Dracula*, a collection of Rossetti poems, T.S. Eliot and Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. This A level will strengthen your evaluative and analytical skills and encourage thematic and intertextual study.

### How will I be assessed?

A Level: 20% coursework and 80% exams  
We follow the **OCR new specification** and texts currently studied at Nower Hill are as below:

#### A Level Component 1 (Shakespeare and pre-1900 poetry)

- Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
- Poetry of Christina Rossetti compared with a pre-1900 drama text *A Doll's House*

#### A Level Component 2 (Comparative and contextual study)

- Study of Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber* and another Gothic text *Dracula*.
- Study of the Gothic genre to prepare for an unseen extract.

#### A Level Component 3 (Literature post 1900) Coursework (20%)

- Two tasks totaling 3,000 words studying poetry, prose and drama.
- Texts studied include: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *TS Eliot* and *The Road*.

### How will I be taught?

Class teaching, group work, personal investigations, discussion, research and presentations, as well as individual coursework tutorials.

### What equipment or materials do I need?

Core texts, textbook, stationery and a voracious appetite for reading.

### Are there any other costs?

There are costs for theatre trips and study days when available. Supplementary reading material is essential to read widely around the texts you are studying. However, we do have a well-stocked library, subscriptions to on-line resources and a sixth form library, so this reading does incur additional expense.

