**A Level English Literature**

**Introduction – an outline of the course**

We are so excited to get you immersed in the world of Literature! The English Literature course offers you the opportunity to become confident analytical thinkers and experts in aspects of genre. The course and texts we have chosen to study at A Level builds on the knowledge you have been taught throughout KS3 and Ks4 studies. You will develop your understanding of tragedy as a genre and you will explore a wide range of texts that may adhere to or challenge the traditional conventions of tragedy. You will also explore texts that demonstrate elements of political and social protest where we will consider how writers use literature and their language as a vehicle for commenting on society.

**What will we be studying in the first half term?**

In the first half term, you will study one of Shakespeare’s most famous tragedy plays, Othello. In your studies, you will read the play and become confident in your ability to analyse how Shakespeare has used language and how is adheres to the generic conventions of tragedy. Parts of this you may recognise from your GCSE studies as we will revisit conventions such as the tragic hero and their downfall which are present in Macbeth.

We will also introduce you to some poetry by William Blake, Songs of Innocence and Experience. Again, Blake is a name you will recognise from your GCSE poetry anthology and we will use ‘London’ as a starting point reviewing this as a poem of social and political protest.

Your assessments in the first half term will focus on close analysis so that all lessons are developing the same skill which you can then apply in your written work.

**What can I do that will help me prepare for A level English Literature?**

You may wish to use some of your summer to carry out some background reading in preparation for starting your English Literature studies. Firstly, it is worth revisiting your classwork and revision notes on Macbeth, specifically looking for what you already know about generic conventions of tragedy. This knowledge will be applied when studying Othello and other tragedies so this is worth keeping!

In addition to this, any reading of texts listed by the exam board from ‘Aspects of Tragedy’ and ‘Elements of political and social protest’, even if not ones we will study as a class, will be interesting wider reading.

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-7716-7717-SP-2015.PDF>

**Summer Gap Task and where to find this**

The best way to prepare for your A level English Literature course is to complete the summer gap task that has been set.

On the [school website](https://www.guiseleyschool.org.uk/), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the English Literature task.

We have selected a range of tasks to immerse you in a few different topic areas to hopefully pique your interest in the subject.

You don’t have to complete this work in one go. Why not wait until you have a rainy day?

We are really looking forward to seeing you in September and working with you so that you achieve your goals and aspirations.