

3 periods a week, compulsory written & oral examination

Subject coordinator - Mr. N. Lomas: www.mrlomasenglish.com

The English L1 Advanced course is intended for those students who have shown ability and strong motivation in their English work so far. As the course is of a literary nature, they are expected to be enthusiastic readers and must be willing to take an active part in group discussion.

The course content in Year 6 is largely determined by the interests and enthusiasms of those in the group; a wide range of reading is expected but emphasis may be on a genre (short stories, drama...), a period (the Romantic Revival, the early 20th Century...), an author (D.H. Lawrence, Margaret Atwood...), a particular text (*Little Dorrit*, *King Lear*...) or works in translation. Some texts may anticipate the theme to be studied in Year 7.

During Year 6 the students will also be required to produce an extended essay of between 2000 and 4000 words consisting of either a language study, a media-focused study, a study of textual adaptation, a portfolio of creative writing or a literary study of an author/authors or a genre.

In Year 7, all the students study one particular text and its context in depth and in relation to a theme which mirrors the main course theme. The text is chosen in a cycle of poetry, prose fiction and drama, each running for two years.

Previous choices have been:

- THE WINTER'S TALE and Shakespeare's Last Plays
- SELECTED POEMS of T.S. Eliot
- TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES and its place in Hardy's work
- HAMLET and the Revenge Tradition
- ENGLISH POETRY 1900 -1975 with particular reference to Yeats, Eliot, Larkin & Hughes
- HARD TIMES and the Victorian Social Novel
- THE TEMPEST and Shakespeare's Last Plays
- KEATS and his place in the Romantic Movement
- THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE and the writings of Thomas Hardy
- TWELFTH NIGHT and Shakespearean Comedy
- TWENTIETH CENTURY POETRY with particular reference to Hardy, Yeats, Hughes, Plath and Heaney
- BRIGHTON ROCK and the Novels of Graham Greene
- HAMLET and Revenge Tragedy
- John Donne and the METAPHYSICAL POETS
- HEART OF DARKNESS and the novels of Joseph Conrad in relation to the theme COLONIALISM AND POST- COLONIALISM
- HAMLET AND TRAGEDY in relation to the theme THICKER THAN WATER: Family and Community Ties.

The chosen text for 2015 and 2016 is Wordsworth and Romantic Poetry and the theme, for both the main course and advanced, is IDENTITY: A Sense of Self.

An extended literary essay of between 4000 and 5000 words on a subject chosen by the individual student in consultation with the teacher is a compulsory part of the advanced programme in Year 7. This essay will involve the detailed study of several texts and may focus on a particular genre, a specific theme, one or more authors or different text types in translation.

Candidates have to sit a final examination in this subject (a four-hour paper - ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE ADVANCED) and take an oral exam based on the selected advanced texts studied during the year. Although they continue to follow the First Language Main Course, they do not take the final Main Course exam.

Overall, we have found that those taking this course have enjoyed it and done well in the final exams. Students who wish to study English or a literature-based course at university are strongly advised to take this option. In recent years students who have taken the Advanced English course have gone on to study English, English and Film Studies, English and American Studies, English and Drama, English and Philosophy, European Studies with Languages, Creative Writing and Media Studies.

NL - December 2014