

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: PASTORAL

Why is English important?

Studying English makes us good readers, creative writers and articulate speakers.

Which texts do our students read in English?

Our students read a wide range of novels, short stories, non-fiction pieces, plays and poetry. This includes Shakespearean texts, classics such as Sherlock Holmes and contemporary works such as *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman.

How is learning organised in English? What are the main topics?

English lessons blend a mix of reading, writing and grammatical skills. These are delivered through the texts studied. At GCSE-level, students learn linguistic and literary skills.

What opportunities do we provide to enrich the learning of our students in English?

Students take part in several initiatives including individual and group dramatic performances, poetry recitals, debate competitions, writing competitions, journalism through the school newsletter and taking the roles of librarians.

Which qualifications do our students complete in English?

Students complete two GCSEs: one in English Language and one in English Literature.

What do we do to support less able students to make more progress in English?

We offer smaller class-sizes, targeted support, additional intervention time and plenty of reassurance.

How well do our students perform in English?

In GCSE English Literature, 97% of our students achieved grades 9-5.

In GCSE English Language, 93% of our students achieved grades 9-5.

What do our students do after studying English

Students go on to study English further and/or pursue careers in a number of areas including academia, publishing, teaching, journalism, research.

For more information please visit the curriculum overview on our website by clicking [here](#).