



# NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

## SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM GUIDE

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least grade 7 in GCSE English and English Literature.



*“English Literature is one of the few subjects where you can express your true opinions.”*

English Literature at Advanced Level is an exciting and challenging subject. It is both thought provoking and immensely rewarding from an academic and imaginative perspective. If you are looking for a stimulating course and enjoy thinking and discussing, then this is for you. There are numerous opportunities to think independently, discuss and argue about literary and critical opinions and possible approaches to texts. This may be in the context of a class discussion, a presentation or an essay. There is enormous emphasis upon the importance of independent reading as a pleasure not a chore. A wider reading enrichment group is run for our students, offering detailed preparation to support those who are applying to do English at university.

*“If you enjoy reading and exploring ideas, English Literature is the perfect subject - you can do what you love and learn at the same time!”*

#### ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

The English Literature A Level course broadens your understanding of genre and extends your independent reading. It introduces you to different critical theories and considers how texts can be interpreted in different ways, drawing comparisons between texts.

In Literary Genres you can expect to study Aspects of Comedy focusing on Twelfth Night, An Importance of Being Earnest

and collection of poetry from metaphysical to contemporary poets. The second component is Texts and Genres: Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing, studying *The Kite Runner*, *A Doll's House* and a collection of Tony Harrison's poetry. This is further enhanced by the study of critical theory in the non-exam assessment in which students study a novel and an anthology of poetry through different readings from a critical anthology ranging from Marxism to Eco-criticism.

In this way, students can gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers. Students are then not only equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for both exams and non-exam assessment, but also experience a rich, challenging and coherent approach to English Literature that provides an excellent basis for studying the subject at university.

The specification encourages the exploration of texts through:

- the study of texts within specific genres
- the study of texts through engagement with a range of theoretical ideas
- writing about texts in a number of different ways.

*“The only subject that doesn't feel like work”*

As well as the varied curriculum content we also offer opportunities to see interpretations of texts in performance, lectures and exhibitions and workshops with visiting authors.

## THE SIXTH FORM AND BEYOND

This is an ideal course for anyone interested in words and ideas - those who enjoy argument, philosophy, language and social history. The subject is therefore very appropriate for those of you who hope to go on in higher education to study such subjects as Literature, Languages, Law, History, Art, Philosophy, Psychology, Theology and Social Sciences.

*"If you liked reading and analysing writers' techniques at GCSE, A Level is even better."*

*Click here to watch the course introductory video  
from Assistant Head, Mr James Brown*

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In order to join us in the Sixth Form, we require an average of grade 6 across eight GCSE subjects, including English and Mathematics. See individual subjects for any specific requirements for study at A Level.

For detailed course information on all of the A Level subjects please visit the AQA, Edexcel or OCR websites.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the admissions process, please call 0115 935 4444 or email [admissions@not.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@not.gdst.net)



Nottingham Girls' High School  
9 Arboretum Street, Nottingham NG1 4JB  
0115 941 7663 [enquiries@not.gdst.net](mailto:enquiries@not.gdst.net)  
[nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net](http://nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net)



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@NottmGirlsHigh

