

GCSE English

Subject Leader: Emma Herod

Exam Board: AQA (Lang 8700, Lit 8702)

Course Overview:

Studying GCSE English will help you develop important and useful skills for your life at Plymouth Studio School and beyond. The course is designed around developing your understanding of language, and encouraging you to give your own personal interpretations and explanations of a variety of texts. The course is vital for students that consider English as a gateway to further study or work, and also gives an insight into A Level study for those who have a passion for English.

What will you study?

You will study the English language in a variety of forms; through reading and analysing non-fiction texts, by writing about your personal opinion and perspective, by reading and interpreting a variety of prose, plays and poetry, and by developing your speaking and listening skills.

Assessment:

GCSE English Language is now assessed by 2 exams of 1 hour 45 minutes each, and GCSE English Literature is assessed by 1 exam of 1 hour 45 minutes and 1 exam of 2 hours 15 minutes.

Why study English?

English skills are vital for any subject you may wish to study in the future, or any career you hope to go into. Think of any activity involving reading, writing, speaking or listening – well that is where studying English comes in! In particular, strong English skills are useful for subjects or careers where you will need to process information, explain your opinion or analyse what something means – Psychology, History, Law, PE, Business, Education and Media all link well.

What course materials will I need?

You will need to bring your normal stationary set, a ring binder folder for storing your notes and any texts that are given out during the year.

What if I've struggled with English in the past?

Due to the small class sizes at Plymouth Studio School, there will be a real personalised learning experience. The fact that there is no coursework also means that there is no pressure to produce your best work right away. We have time to explore the subject and develop skills, ready for the exams in 2 years' time.

