

## **English Advanced Higher**

### **Why take this course?**

The main reason for taking Advance Higher English is a love of reading and writing, thinking and theorising. However, the guided independent study required by AH English is also an excellent foundation for university study of any subject.

### **To succeed in this course you need to:**

- love reading and discussion
- be able to work independently on a number of projects simultaneously
- be organised and disciplined
- be willing to develop your creative writing skills
- have a solid foundation of analytical skills applicable to language and literature.
- be in possession of a good grade (A or B) at Higher

### **Course Structure**

Advanced Higher English offers you the opportunity to extend your critical understanding of novels, plays and poetry; to develop skills in creative writing; and to engage in a major piece of individual literary research (the dissertation).

The course emphasises literature and your own responses to literature. There is a variety of units to choose from. There are plenty of opportunities for small group discussions, individual research and work-shops. Local and national visits are often possible. Advanced Higher pupils have a dedicated space within the department for study and discussion, and are expected to spend a significant number of their study periods in the English department. The course is intended to be enjoyable, challenging and rewarding, and will provide you with a very useful set of research, discussion, and independent working skills for specialised further study of any subject at college or university.

Although the course is tailored to pupils' needs, interests and abilities, serious commitment from you is essential for success.

### **Course Assessment**

You will submit a folio of creative writing (40% of your mark), and a dissertation (30% of your mark) on texts which you have chosen. You will be allocated to a dissertation supervisor from the English staff, whose interests and specialisms match your choice of texts.

The examination consists of a Literary Study (15% of your mark) in which you will write an essay on texts studied in class, and a Textual Analysis (15% of your mark) paper, in which you will analyse an unseen text from a choice of genres.

### **Where might this course take me?**

Most obviously, on to a degree course in English Literature at university. However, an AH in English is a great foundation for any course at university, and the advanced communication skills it teaches are in great demand by employers in all sectors.

*Further details can be obtained from the Principal Teacher of English (Mrs Hunter), and you should discuss your plans with her before signing up for this course.*