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| Course name: English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs) |
| Which course/ syllabus will I be following?  All students will study AQA’s English Language and English Literature |
| What are the reasons for studying this?  As part of their Literature GCSE, students will study a range of texts from the Literary Heritage: Macbeth by William Shakespeare, An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley, a selection of poems dating from the nineteenth century, and either Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, or Stevenson’s The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. The study of these texts will involve exploration of plot, characterisation and theme, along with the way the Writer’s time, culture and intentions have shaped the text.  The English Language course further develops many of the skills of the Literature exams. Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing, presents students with an extract from a 21st Century prose text and asks them to analyse and evaluate choices made by the writer. They then write their own descriptive narrative. Paper 2: Writer’s Viewpoints and Perspectives, presents students with two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how different viewpoints influence the reader. They write their own persuasive piece.  AQA is a well-established and highly regarded exam board nationally. All English GCSE exams are now single tier entry so all students will be prepared for the same exams. Having said this, we have selected the AQA exams because the questions are phrased clearly, along with bullet points which prompt responses, and are therefore supportive in nature for all students. |
| How is the course assessed?  Both courses are 100% exam assessed.  Language:   1. Creative reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks – 50% 2. Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks – 50%   Literature:   1. Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel – 1 hour 45 minutes – 64 marks – 40% 2. Modern Texts and Poetry – 2hours 15 minutes – 96 marks – 60%   Spoken Language (speaking and listening) – additional qualification:  Teacher assessment of presenting skills, ability to respond to questions and use of Standard English. |
| Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?  English is very much a facilitating subject for most careers. Employers and educational establishments will use English GCSEs as a way of gauging a students’ ability to communicate effectively. Beyond this, there are many specific careers which would rely on GCSE English as a starting point: journalism and media-based careers, teaching, careers in politics, acting…the list is endless! |