

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Upper 4 students refine their literacy skills and deepen their appreciation of the English Literary Heritage. Pupils are taught to speak, read and write about nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century literature, non-fiction and media texts independently and confidently, referring in detail to the technical aspects of how the language has been used, and to identify how this affects the reader. Upper 4 students gain a richer appreciation of the world of words and how to navigate their way in it with sensitivity, maturity and inquisitiveness.

Subject / Topic	Skills / Attitudes
Texts are chosen at the class teacher’s discretion but must include examples of nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century prose fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction texts. Works covered may include:	<b>Speaking and Listening:</b> Students are required to speak on topics and take part in drama simulations with which they and their audience are unfamiliar. Their skills are challenged further by debating on contentious issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Novels:</b> Jane Eyre (Charlotte Brontë) Of Mice and Men (John Steinbeck)</li></ul>	<b>Reading:</b> In the study of nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century literary, non-literary and media texts, more emphasis is placed upon the student showing she can independently recognise and retrieve information about syntax, language choice, structure, audience and purpose, whilst going on to discuss and write about their effect on the reader.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Poetry:</b> Character and Voice / Love and Relationships  Anthology and other selected poems</li></ul>	<b>Writing:</b> Detailed analytical writing is developed and the principles of essay writing are introduced. Students are taught to adapt syntax and presentation in the production of persuasive, argumentative, informative, descriptive and explanatory writing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Drama:</b> Twelfth Night (Shakespeare)</li></ul>	<b>Spelling, punctuation and grammar:</b> Students are encouraged to use sophisticated grammar, punctuation and language, and are taught how to punctuate quotations. Great emphasis is put on writing accurately in the girls’ final year before their GCSE courses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Non-fiction texts:</b> Teenage Issues project  A variety of non-fiction extracts (from nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century)</li></ul>	