



## What our students say about English

# GENEVIEVE LAWSON



Subjects:

**ENGLISH LANG & LIT  
HISTORY  
FINE ART**

High School:  
De La Salle

*My name is Genevieve and I am currently studying English Language & Literature, History and Fine Art, and an Extended Project Qualification on human interaction. I feel that most of my enjoyment and talent lies in English and therefore I wish to continue to study it at degree level.*

### **What is it you particularly enjoy about English?**

I particularly enjoy the way that studying English Language and Literature has not only developed me academically but has also developed my critical thinking skills which are vital in the real world. The analytical skills I have learned have not only allowed me to access the different curriculum texts but have also allowed me to critique the world around me, both politically and socially. I find that this has massively contributed to my transition into a young adult, particularly one entering a world of political disarray in the current climate, and has helped me to find my voice as a young person in British society.

### **How much work is involved? (hours in lessons and outside of lessons)?**

English language and literature is a subject in which the workload is entirely varied and easily accessible. By this, the analytical skills learned in each lesson can be applied and revised in any aspect of everyday life. Each week, I receive at least 4 hours of lessons with an extra 5 hours per week allocated to homework and revision. However, the English staff are great and are always happy to have a one to one with you and provide any extra learning time you may need.

### **If you studied the subject at GCSE how different is studying it at A Level?**

Besides studying more challenging texts, I feel that the A Level course is much more accessible than the GCSE curriculum. The English combined course at Carmel allows you to explore texts and themes that you enjoy as well as the curriculum texts and, whereas the GCSE marking schemes made the course very prescriptive and narrow. At A Level there is much more room to explore what you enjoy and take from a text, making each text very subjective and personal to you. Also, by studying English at A Level, you are automatically placed with peers who have the same passion for English which makes every lesson like one big conversation: where you bounce off each other with different ideas, interpretations and inspirations which really allows you to access all perspectives of each text.

## How are you assessed and how regularly?

We are assessed very regularly which is great because it informs you of your own progress and where you are at in the subject. We are also encouraged to write our own pieces and essays in free time and as homework assignments that are promptly marked by the teachers. This makes the workload feel more personal and suited to your time schedule and the depth and quickness of feedback is very helpful and vital to succeeding in the subject.

## What support have you received and is support available if you do not understand something?

The support I have received has been outstanding. Not only the help and support in the academic sense, but also the teacher support with university applications through mock interviews and printed resources to help me through the UCAS process. The staff have also provided a friendly environment and a fantastic helping hand throughout my time at college, from fun chats in the staffroom to emails and online calls giving me any help I may need.

## Have you received Careers support and what are your future plans?

I feel that the support I have had from the English department and my English teacher has been vital to my genuine passion and interest in the subject and plans to study the subject at university. Studying English at Carmel has given me the confidence to go on and study English as a degree and without the support I have received I wouldn't be the person, never mind student, that I am today. I also went through the Oxbridge application process and the support and help I received throughout made the process much less daunting and even enjoyable which will be essential in all future aspirations and interviews or application processes.



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