You develop the **INSIGHT** of an artist, the analytical **PRECISION** of a scientist and the **PERSUASIVENESS** of a lawyer.

*PROF MORAN, BRUNEL UNIVERSITY*
**What will the course involve?**

English Language is a popular A Level appealing to students because it examines texts in the real world such as adverts, speeches and newspaper articles. The emphasis is on understanding how and why language is used in specific ways and developing knowledge of key terminology which will help you analyse texts in a concise and focused style.

After learning how to analyse unseen texts, you will continue to develop your understanding of key frameworks as well as studying the development of English Language over time. This topic covers historical, social and cultural aspects as well as examining current attitudes towards the effects of new technology. There is also a focus on spoken language. You will analyse a wide range of transcripts from television and radio, spontaneous real life talk, comedy and child language acquisition.

**How will I be assessed?**

There will be three exams at the end of the second year (80%) and one piece of coursework (20%).

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**What will the course involve?**

English Literature appeals to students who are passionate about reading, debating and interpreting texts from a range of historical periods. This is a two year linear course where you will gain critical appreciation of literary texts and demonstrate your own close analysis of poetry, prose and drama through cogent, detailed essays.

The exams will test your understanding of plays from the Renaissance period, such as ‘The Duchess of Malfi’ and ‘The Tempest’, and the twentieth century ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’. Modern poetry by Larkin and Duffy are studied to test your ability to write comparatively on their shared themes.

Coursework, which is worth 20%, is a 2,500-3,500 word essay allowing you to compare the modern novel Notes on a Scandal with The Great Gatsby. In addition to the set texts, the unseen exam component develops you as a wider reader with extracts from works by Hardy, Wilde, Doyle, Rossetti to name a few.

**How will I be assessed?**

There will be three exams at the end of the second year (80%) and one piece of coursework (20%).
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

What will the course involve?
This is a popular course that links the skills of both English Language and English Literature study. It will appeal to students who have enjoyed both aspects at GCSE and wish to continue studying them in a broader and more in-depth manner.

During the two years you will explore how ‘voice’ is crafted in both speech and writing, focusing on a drama text ‘All My Sons’, the poetry collection ‘The Whitsun Weddings’ as well as a range of short literary, non-literary and digital texts. You will also study texts that give you the opportunity to explore the ways in which different writers use language techniques and literary devices to convey their thoughts or ideas on a theme in literary and non-fiction writing. For example, you will analyse the techniques Fitzgerald uses to explore ‘Society and the Individual’ in ‘The Great Gatsby’.

As well as reading and analysing texts written by other people, you will also be given the opportunity to develop your own skills as a writer by producing two pieces of creative writing in response to a topic area, such as ‘Crossing Boundaries’. You will also undertake wider reading to further your understanding of texts from a range of genres and time periods.

How will I be assessed?
There will be two exams at the end of the second year (80%) and one coursework component (20%).

Where does an English course lead?
English subjects are challenging, but are an excellent preparation both for university and your future career. Obvious careers include journalism, sales, teaching, management, administration, information management, publishing and careers in the public services.

What support will I receive?
All staff in the department are there to enable you to achieve the best grades possible and you can ask for help from any tutor. This is in addition to regular individual interviews with your own specific tutor. Additional revision classes are held for all re-sits and we take pride in the level of support given to our students.

What is the English Department like?
There are six tutors in the English Department all of whom teach the whole range of courses. There is an excellent library containing both traditional texts, but also the very best of contemporary writing. The Department has a ‘book of the month’ programme giving students the opportunity to enjoy the latest publications. We have comprehensive IT facilities in the college and the English Department subscribes to a range of magazines and on-line resources such as Pro-Quest and the Oxford English Dictionary.

What other activities do English students get involved in?
The English Department offers the opportunity to be involved in theatre visits, trips to places of literary interest, study days on specific examination modules, workshops on creative writing, examination preparation delivered by Senior Examiners and conferences on English Language. You can also, through Enrichment, be involved in debating, personal creative writing, and the poetry group.

Studying English as a combined course has enabled me to acquire the skills to help me in further education as well as in life.
It is an intriguing A Level which sparks creativity as well as helping you to construct critical and invaluable analysis.
I’ve particularly enjoyed learning about the genre of modernism; Philip Larkin’s realisation of post-war Britain offers a strange yet vastly interesting lament on modern life. Carmel has been an excellent bridge between school and university, preparing me for adult life. English Lang & Lit has accompanied my studies in Drama perfectly and has given me the confidence and skills I will need when I take my gap year to South East Asia before studying Drama in London.

Jack Tisdall
Childwall Academy
Studying:
English Lang & Lit,
Drama & Theatre, History
How successful are Carmel's English students?

Carmel's English students achieve consistently high results across all three subjects:

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What are the entry requirements for these courses?

For all English subjects you will need a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a grade 5 in GCSE English Literature (if studied).

Is there anything I should consider when choosing which English subject to take?

Students who know which specific English degree they are going to pursue should take the same A Level course. Students who are applying to Oxbridge, or prestigious universities should check with the university’s admissions team to see which English course is preferred.

My favourite aspect is the freedom when studying a particular piece. There are multiple critical approaches you can apply while reading, which makes it more personal and enjoyable. Class discussions are always engaging and thought provoking and improve analytical skills.

The coursework component provides freedom to explore your own interpretations and be creative. I chose a different novel from the recommended text and guidance and support is always available.

When applying to university and writing my personal statement, the English department recommended books to strengthen my knowledge and also offered mock interviews. The reassurance from my tutor has increased my confidence and will definitely help me in the future, as I aspire to eventually study a Master’s degree in English Literature.

Elizabeth Griffiths
De La Salle
Studying:
English Literature, English Language, History