

What can I do after this course?

GCSE English is a requirement for most Sixth Form courses.

Employers look for an English qualification at GCSE level, with a grade 4 being seen as the minimum expected grade for GCSE English Language.

You can go on to study English Language or Literature at A Level with a minimum grade 6 in both subjects.

For further information contact:

Ms S Lingard
Mrs C Tesseras
Ms J Gavin
01246 412372
slingard@dhfs.uk
ctesseras@dhfs.uk
jengavin@dhfs.uk



GCSE

English Language & English Literature

Exam Board: AQA



DRONFIELD HENRY FANSHAWE SCHOOL

Established 1579

Green Lane
Dronfield
Derbyshire
S18 2FZ

www.dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk



@DHFSupdate
@DHFS_careers
@DHFSEnglishfac



DRONFIELD
HENRY FANSHAWE
SCHOOL

Established 1579



Subject Guide Key Stage 4

GCSE

English Language & English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Course starting September 2022

English Language GCSE

This qualification is made up of two exam papers.

Paper 1 is Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, and Paper 2 is Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives.

These two papers are both worth 50% of the GCSE grade. They both require students to analyse writer's style and language across fiction and non-fiction writing, followed by a piece of original creative writing, and a piece of writing where they express their own viewpoint.

Students will work on analysing a wide variety of written texts, looking at how language shapes meaning and the effect that this has on readers. They will also develop skills to craft their own writing so that they are able to express themselves clearly, accurately and creatively. Students will also be assessed on their written literacy skills – spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Wider reading of fiction (novels and short stories) and non-fiction texts (such as quality newspapers, blogs, and speeches etc.) are a great starting point for students to widen their vocabulary and develop a greater sensitivity to the impact that their word choices can have. This will also support accuracy and be a positive influence on all other subjects.

There is also a non-examined assessment which requires students to give a presentation on a topic of their choice. They will use questions from their class as part of this. As per AQA requirements, students will be filmed by school staff completing their presentation.

The results of this assessment range from Pass, to Merit, and Distinction.

English Literature GCSE

This qualification is made up of two exam papers.

Paper 1 is Shakespeare and 19th Century Prose which is worth 40% of the GCSE grade.

Paper 2 is Modern Texts and Poetry, worth 60% of the final GCSE grade.

Both exam papers require students to analyse a variety of literary texts from prose, poetry and drama. They will analyse extracts and whole texts, looking at how writers use language and structure to convey ideas to their readers. We will also consider wider ideas behind texts, looking at the social and historical contexts that affect how we read and understand them, as well as considering how they have impact for us as readers.

Students will explore each writer's style and language in detail as we work through each text. They will develop their analytical skills looking at how language shapes meaning and the effect that this has on readers in different contexts.

Wider reading of a wide range of fiction over time is a great starting point for students to widen their vocabulary and develop a greater sensitivity to the images, ideas and themes in literature.

