

## **English Literature** \_\_\_\_

## Introduction

English Literature is, essentially, a contemplation of the human condition.

The first year of the course will entail the study of poetry, drama and prose. At the end of the first year of the course, you will be examined on the poems of Philip Larkin and Carol Ann Duffy together with "Doctor Faustus" by Christopher Marlowe and "Enron" by Lucy Prebble which are both plays. The examined texts will represent both modern and pre-20th century literature.

## **Preparation**

The study of English Literature should be inspired by a love of and enthusiasm for the subject. However, you will need to undertake a significant amount of independent reading; you should, therefor, only consider the subject if you are prepared to read and engage with challenging texts on your own.

Try to read across the genres of poetry, prose (novels) and drama over the summer. Try to watch at least one play online via the RSC website.

As well as studying set texts, candidates benefit greatly by undertaking wider reading which enables a more developed understanding of the subject. Talk to parents, relatives and friends about books they have enjoyed and let their advice inform your choices.

Over the summer, we would specifically like you all to read Macbeth by William Shakespeare which will give you vital grounding in the genre of Elizabethan tragedy.

You will also be at a significant advantage when starting the course if you read The Ode Less Travelled by Stephen Fry which is a highly accessible and entertaining introduction into the mechanics and the purposes of poetry; complete the exercises required of you by the author. Such an enterprise ought to be both amusing and profoundly useful to your study of poetry.

If you require any further information, then you could visit the **eduqas** website and type in English Literature A-level or, alternatively, contact me at **t.hardwick@st-christophers.org** 

Please bring with you to our initial lesson in September an open mind and a thirst for knowledge. We very much look forward to seeing you.





"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

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