

13/06/2025

Re: A Level English Language/Literature

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to advise pupils who are studying the combined English Language and Literature at A Level about some important preparatory work and reading to be completed over the summer.

Firstly, we will be holding an important teaching session after the completion of other AS level examinations, and before the summer holidays. Attendance at this session is compulsory for every pupil: **Thursday 19th June, 1.00-3.15pm.**

Over the summer, pupils should continue preparatory work for their controlled assessment, details of which will be provided on the 19th June. For the final piece, students are required to complete a 2500-word essay. The key challenge is that all students must research and write their essays independently, with very limited input from teaching staff. This piece is worth 20% of their A Level and should, therefore, be taken very seriously.

It is imperative that pupils keep up to date with the work and deadlines set in order to achieve their full potential in this assessment. Therefore, by the start of term, all pupils should have:

- Decided on the theme or area of linguistics they wish to study;
- Completed reading of several novels, plays, or poetry collections of interest, and selected their literary text for analysis;
- Completed reading of a range of related non-literary material, and selected their non-literary text for analysis.

It is also a requirement that each pupil should read and research around both of the set texts studied during Year 14:

- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams ([978-0-141-19027-3](https://www.isbn.org/9780141190273))
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald ([978-0-14-118263-6](https://www.isbn.org/9780141182636))

We strongly encourage pupils to purchase their own copies of these class texts for making notes and annotations. Many independent bookshops and online retailers have second hand copies to sell for a very reasonable price. However, if pupils wish to purchase the same version of the texts as the ones used in school, we recommend using the ISBNs above.

We hope this information will enable the pupils studying the English Language and Literature A-Level to be well prepared and ready for a challenging course ahead. It is worth emphasising that one of the aims of this A Level is to develop in the students 'the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research, which are invaluable for both further study and future employment'. We hope that pupils will enjoy exploring the texts as much as we do.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the work of the English Department.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Patterson

Assistant Head of English and Drama

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