

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT: KEY STAGE 4

All of year 10/11 will follow the AQA Board **GCSE English Language** or '**Step Up to English**' for sharing the same skills-based approach to the study of English. The **AQA English Literature GCSE** texts will be explored by *all* and the formal qualification is available to those able to access the terminal examinations in Year 11. In addition to GCSEs, **Functional Skills at Level 1 and 2** is offered to develop exam resilience and provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability in functional English for all post-16 options.

AQA GCSE English Language (Graded 1-9)



Two combined reading and writing exams in Year 11:

- **Paper 1, *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing***, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers.
- **Paper 2, *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives***, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time.

Spoken Language (Previously Speaking and Listening)

Separate endorsed unit – graded separately. Spoken Language tasks will focus on the ability to use Standard English effectively and deliver polite and formal presentations. Students will participate in classroom assessments throughout Year 10 and 11.

AQA 'Step Up to English' (Pass/Fail: Silver/Gold)

Silver Step (Entry Level 1 and 2) and Gold Step (Entry Level 3) certified awards.

Students are assessed on their Spoken Language, Reading and Writing based on the GCSE assessment objectives through controlled assessments.

- **Component 1, Literacy Topics**, is transactional in nature and will ask students to complete a number of tasks based around a theme.
- **Component 2, Creative Reading and Writing**, is literary in nature and students will be asked to respond to excerpts from literary and literary non-fiction texts and write creatively.



AQA Functional Skills in English (Pass/Fail: L.1 or L2)

Functional English Level 1 and 2 are the equivalent of GCSE grades C-G/5-1 and give students practical skills for the modern world. Level 1 provides a valuable bridge between Entry Level 'Step Up' work and the extended, independent work expected with a GCSE. The AQA specification aims to ensure students have good communication skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. It assesses whether students can use these skills in everyday situations. All levels follow a similar specification to the GCSE and Step Up to English courses; however, they are **individually assessed** allowing students to focus on one skill strand at a time.

- **Component 1: Reading**
1 hour exam with access to a dictionary.
- **Component 2: Writing**
1 hour exam consisting of two tasks, with access to a dictionary.
- **Component 3: Speaking, Listening and Communication**
Always controlled assessments in class.