

## **English at Trinity**

Students will sit two separate GCSEs at the end of year 11: English Language and English Literature.

### **English Language GCSE**

This is the qualification that colleges and future employers will use to judge a student's quality of English. Most post-16 courses will require a student to achieve a minimum of a grade 4 in English if they are to be accepted onto the course. **If students do not achieve a 4, they may be asked to retake GCSE English Language and attend catch up classes at college.** This is even the case with post 16 vocational courses that require relatively little reading and writing.

#### **What does the course entail?**

Students will sit two examinations. Each examination tests their ability to read and comment upon unseen texts and each asks them to produce an extended piece of writing.

#### **Language Paper 1 (1hr 45mins)**

- Students will read an unseen fiction extract and answer 4 questions in response to the text.
- Students will produce a piece of narrative/creative writing

#### **Language Paper 2 (1hr 45mins)**

- Students will read 2 linked non-fiction extracts and answer 4 questions in response to both pieces
- Students will produce a piece of persuasive/argumentative writing

### **English Literature GCSE**

English Literature requires students to study a range of set texts. They will also practice responding to unseen poems. Like all other GCSEs, how well a student does in this qualification will determine whether they secure college places or further study. If a student is planning on continuing with studying literature, they will need to get at least a grade 5 but more likely a grade 6 to be accepted onto post-16 literature courses.

#### **What does the course entail?**

Students will sit two examinations and will be expected to respond to questions via extended essay-style answers

#### **Literature Paper 1**

- Students will answer a question on *Macbeth* and a question on *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Hyde*

#### **Literature Paper 2**

- Students will answer one question on *An Inspector Calls*, a question on *The Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology* and two questions on two unseen poems.

**Please turn over for ways that you can help your son/daughter succeed**

## How can I support my son/daughter?

### Lesson Time

The single biggest predictor of student success in both of these qualifications is whether students are working hard in all their lessons. Year 10 have 5 English lessons every week and these are used for teaching content but also practising examination performance.

**If a student is to succeed, they need to concentrate and work hard in all lessons, ensuring that they put maximum effort into every practice task and piece of writing that they are asked to complete.**

**Success in English language GCSE is down to regularly practising completing the papers at speed: students need to think, read and write QUICKLY for an extended period of time and the best way to improve this ability is through regular practice.**

### Home Learning

Year 10 will be set home learning every Wednesday. They have home learning EVERY SINGLE WEEK.

All students have an academic planner and are expected to write down their home learning properly.

For each piece of home learning, they are expected to write down:

- a) What they have to do
- b) When is the deadline
- c) When are they going to do it
- d) Where are they going to do it

**You can check that your son/daughter is being organised and recording their home learning each week.**

English home learning will typically be one of the following tasks:

- 1) An essay on one of their set literature texts
- 2) Language GCSE examination past paper practice
- 3) Quotation learning for English Literature
- 4) Seneca work

**Students who regularly complete their English home learning to a high standard are far more likely to succeed than those who do not.**