North Herts
Education Support Centre

Course Title
GCSE English Literature/English Language (KS4)
Overview
At NHESC, our Key Stage 4 English curriculum is designed to help students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence required to achieve success in GCSE English Language and English Literature. We provide an engaging, ambitious and inclusive curriculum that supports students in becoming critical readers, thoughtful writers and confident communicators. Through the study of a broad range of literary and non-fiction texts, students develop their understanding of the world around them while preparing for further education, employment and adult life.
Outline of the Course
In Year 10, students study for their English Literature GCSE. We currently follow the AQA specification which consists of two written exams which they sit in the Summer Term. Students study a variety of different texts in detail, learning to appreciate the writers use of language and structure, as well as understanding the context and greater cultural significance of each work. Our chosen texts include J.B. Priestley's play 'An Inspector Calls', Charles Dickens' famous novella 'A Christmas Carol, Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", and a selection of poetry on the theme of 'Power and Conflict'. In Year 11, students study for their English Language GCSE. We currently follow the AQA specification which consists of two written exams which they sit in the Summer Term. The first, Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives, asks students to analyse and comment on nonfiction texts as well writing their own non-fiction piece. The second, Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, affords them the opportunity to explore some literary texts as well as creating their own piece of original fiction. Students must also produce a separately assessed Spoken Language presentation which allows them to develop speaking and listening skills. **SMSC, Careers and Enrichment** Through the study of literature and language, students explore important social, moral, spiritual, and cultural themes including social responsibility, inequality, conflict, power, morality, identity, and justice. Our curriculum is built around three core values: • **Culture** – Students explore a wide range of literary texts, historical contexts, perspectives, and experiences. • **Creativity** – Students engage with imaginative and transactional writing opportunities. • **Confidence** – Students develop the skills and self-assurance needed to analyse challenging texts.

Assessment details

Students complete both formative and summative assessments throughout KS4. Assessment tasks are closely aligned with GCSE expectations and include examination-style questions, extract analysis, creative and transactional writing tasks, poetry comparison, mock examinations and GCSE practice papers.

The course is assessed through two final examinations in May/June at the end of Year 10 and Year 11 respectively.

English Literature (Year 10)

- Shakespeare and 19th C novel – Shakespeare play *(Romeo and Juliet),* The 19th-century novel *(A Christmas Carol)*
- Modern texts and Poetry – Modern drama text *(An Inspector Calls),* The poetry anthology *(Power and Conflict),* Unseen poetry

English Language (Year 11)

- Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives – Read and respond to non-fiction texts: one 19th century non-fiction text, one 20th or 21st century non-fiction text, write one piece of original non-fiction
- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – Read and respond to literary prose texts: one text may be literary non-fiction, 20th or 21st century literary prose, write one piece of original creative writing

- Spoken language – A non-exam assessment. Present information and ideas in a spoken presentation and listen and respond to others appropriately

Staff Roles

Teacher – Mrs Beavis.

Equipment/Health and Safety

Class texts and all other necessary equipment is provided by the centre. Including access to ICT resources as necessary. Basic classroom health and safety expectations apply.

How will it be examined

The course is assessed through two examinations in May/June at the end of Year 10 and Year 11 respectively.

English Literature (Year 10)

- Shakespeare and 19th C novel – 1 hour 45 minutes, 64 marks, 40% of GCSE
- Modern texts and Poetry – 2 hours 15 minutes, 96 marks, 60% of GCSE

English Language (Year 11)

- Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of GCSE
- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of GCSE

Appeals process

If a learner wishes to appeal their final grade, NHESC can trigger a remarking of their examination paper(s) by AQA. In most circumstances, this will be when the initial mark is within three marks of the next grade boundary.

Curriculum Plan	
This table sets out the intended curriculum plan for GCSE English in Key Stage 4. The plan for each half term is reviewed in advance based on progress, considering the contrasting needs of individuals within each cohort and the impact of external factors on their learning.	
Year 10	
Autumn 1 An Inspector Calls	**Autumn 2** A Christmas Carol
Spring 1 Romeo and Juliet	**Spring 2** Poetry Anthology – Power and Conflict
Summer 1 Unseen poetry Exam preparation and revision	**Summer 2** English Literature Exam Preparation for English Language
Year 11	
Autumn 1 Paper 1 Section A and B – Creative Writing	**Autumn 2** Paper 2 Section A – Reading Non-Fiction Texts Mock Exam 1
Spring 1 Spoken Language Assessment	**Spring 2** Paper 2 Section B – Writing Non-Fiction Texts Mock Exam 2
Summer 1 Paper 1 Section A – Reading Fiction Texts Exam preparation and revision	**Summer 2** English Language Exam