

English Language GCSE

AQA

This course is primarily a GCSE resit course aimed at getting you to progress a grade by the end of the year. We follow the AQA syllabus which the majority of our students are familiar with. We often see students move up two grades or more during their time with us.

Course Structure

This year (given the issues with awarding grades in 2020) all students were entered for the November Resit GCSE. Those who get a Grade 4 or above in the January result will leave the course – although if they wish to complete the year and try and achieve a higher grade they are welcome. We expect the majority of students to need a year to reach their target grade and a second exam sitting will be in June.

Skills & Knowledge

You will be trained to analyse fiction and produce your own creative writing pieces for Paper 1. You will be trained to analyse non-fiction and produce your own non-fiction pieces of Paper 2. Most of the English Department are examiners and we have produced clear writing frames and feedback of tips for progression. You will also give a verbal presentation over the year.

Assessment

Assessment is 100% exam-based, incorporating two papers. You will have two opportunities to sit the official exams: November and June. There will be regular internal progress marker assessments within college. Assessments in the first half of the year will be supported and guided, gradually this scaffolding will be withdrawn as you become more independent.

Opportunities & Enrichment

Between the November exam and the January results we are trialling an internally credited 'Challenge and Extend' Certificate of skills. You will participate in a variety of workshops: film review, poetry submission, a creative writing competition, a reading challenge and writing a CV. You will also take part in a community project run by external agency ASE in which you create a peer support campaign around WM. All events you participate in will be recorded on your certificate and will be invaluable inclusions on CVs and in job applications.

Future Careers & Pathways

A pass grade (Grade 4) at GCSE English is your access to the next stage of education. It is also a necessary part of any job application from childcare to working in the hospitality industry. At William Morris we also support students aiming higher than a Grade 4 (students need a minimum of five Grade 5 GCSEs to access A Levels for example). We have a good record of GCSE English students staying on at WM to continue with their English studies at A Level. We also help medical students who require a Grade 6 in English GCSE to achieve this.