

A-Level Preparation into the Sixth Form 2026

English Literature

A course booklet is issued to all Year 12 students at the commencement of the course in September; this is filled with useful information about the course content, approaches to reading and writing at A Level, enrichment within English, and the study of literature in general.

We expect you to take your academic work seriously. You must attend all your lessons and participate in study days and conferences, as well as keep up-to-date with notes, research and homework tasks, including strict NEA deadlines. Provided you study well and keep up with the work, you should enjoy your course immensely and be successful.

Teachers have chosen exciting and stimulating texts for you to develop your reading skills that will prepare you for undergraduate study, especially should you intend to read English at University. In addition, as part of your NEA, you will have the opportunity to select text/s of your choice for an independent study in Year 13. In preparation for your A Level course, we have provided an example of our general reading list for 6th formers, as well more specialised lists in preparation for Love through the Ages (Paper 1, Year 12) and Texts in Shared Contexts: World War One and its Aftermath (Paper 2, Year 13).

We expect all our A Level students to have read some of the texts listed below (significant texts are highlighted in bold) and to come prepared in September to feedback/discuss aspects of summer reading. In addition, every student should read the article by Claire Earnshaw titled "Joining the Conversation: Literature Matters" [Link to Claire Earnshaw article](#) and be ready to reflect upon it during the first week of lessons.

You should also read the English Literature-Additional summer reading which can be found on the Summer Homework page of the website

<u>Love through the Ages</u>	<u>General</u>
<i>Persuasion</i>, Jane Austen <i>Jane Eyre</i>, Charlotte Brontë <i>Wuthering Heights</i>, Emily Brontë <i>The Awakening</i>, Kate Chopin <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>, Thomas Hardy <i>The Great Gatsby</i>, F Scott Fitzgerald <i>A Room with a View</i>, E M Forster <i>The Go-Between</i>, L P Hartley <i>Rebecca</i>, Daphne Du Maurier <i>Atonement</i>, Ian McEwan <i>Othello</i>, William Shakespeare <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>, William Shakespeare	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>, Chinua Achebe <i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i>, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>, Maya Angelou <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>, Margaret Atwood <i>The Secret Scripture</i>, Sebastain Barry <i>Captain Corelli's Mandolin</i>, Louis de Bernières <i>The Heart's Invisible Furies</i>, John Boyne <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>, Khaled Hosseini <i>A Doll's House</i>, Henrik Ibsen <i>The Remains of the Day</i>, Kazuo Ishiguro <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>, James Joyce <i>Song of Achilles</i>, Madeline Miller <i>Beloved</i>, Toni Morrison <i>The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox</i>, Maggie O'Farrell <i>The Bell Jar</i>, Sylvia Plath <i>The Country Girls</i>, trilogy by Edna O'Brien <i>Waterline</i>, Ros Raisin
<u>World War One and its Aftermath</u> <i>A Long Long Way</i>, Sebastian Barry <i>The Regeneration Trilogy</i>, Pat Barker <i>Testament of Youth</i>, Vera Brittain <i>Birdsong</i>, Sebastian Faulks <i>Goodbye to all That</i>, Robert Graves <i>Oh! What a Lovely War!</i>, Joan Littlewood <i>The Silver Tassie</i>, Sean O'Casey <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, Erich Remarque <i>Memoirs of an Infantry Officer</i>, Siegfried Sassoon <i>Journey's End</i>, R C Sherriff <i>Wilfred Owen: A Biography</i>, Jon Stallworthy <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>, Virginia Woolf <i>The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry</i>, ed. George Walter	