



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Bridging Work

Welcome to A Level English Literature

Congratulations on choosing A Level English Literature.

The transition from GCSE to A Level is exciting because you will begin studying literature in much greater depth. At GCSE, you learnt to develop a line of argument, select quotations, analyse language, structure and form, embed relevant context, and explore writer's intentions. At A Level, those skills remain essential, but you will also learn to:

- develop more sophisticated arguments;
- explore multiple interpretations of texts;
- use literary and historical context to shape your ideas;
- compare texts within/across genres and periods;
- engage with literary critics and academic debate.

The purpose of these Bridging Units is to help you to start making that transition before you begin the course in September. Each booklet has been designed to introduce the skills that distinguish A Level Literature from GCSE while allowing you to begin with a Shakespeare play you already know well. Therefore, complete **only ONE** booklet and choose the booklet that matches the Shakespeare text you studied for GCSE.

Although each booklet focuses on a different Shakespeare text, they all teach exactly the same A Level skills. The only difference is the play used as the starting point.

How should I complete the booklet?

The booklet is designed to be completed in order over the summer.

As you work through it you will:

- explore the differences between GCSE and A Level Literature exam questions;
- build an increasingly sophisticated essay argument;
- develop close textual analysis;
- investigate literary and historical contexts;
- compare the core Shakespeare play with a secondary one;
- consider different critical interpretations;
- produce a complete A Level-style essay.

There is no expectation that your work will already be at A Level standard. The booklet is designed to help you learn and prepare for September.

Submitting your work

Please bring your completed Bridging Unit along with you when you start the course.

Within the first week of September, you will submit your completed essay – this will be marked and strengths and areas of improvement will be identified.

This feedback will inform the preparation you undertake for a baseline assessment on the same Shakespeare text later in the first half term.

Remember

The aim is **not** to produce a perfect essay.

The aim is to begin thinking like an A Level literature student: questioning ideas, exploring interpretations, and developing thoughtful, evidence-based arguments.

We look forward to welcoming you in September.