



# Blue Coat Church of England Academy

**Year: 12/13**

**Subject: English**

## Overview

### Year 12

Students in year 12 study a range of texts connected by the same genre: tragedy. They begin term 1 by exploring the conventions of the genre, which they then apply to the study of the following texts over the course of the academic year:

- Othello by William Shakespeare;
- Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller;
- A collection of poetry by John Keats.

Students are taught to respond critically to texts, developing their own interpretations, underpinned by an understanding of the genre and informed by those of other literary critics. They also explore how writers shape meaning, considering the impact of a range of authorial methods on the reader. All texts studied in year 12 are assessed at the end of year 13 in English Literature Paper 1, which is a closed book examination.

Students complete a 'non-exam assessment', which they begin in the summer term of year 12. This typically extends into term 1 of year 13. They are required to study two texts: one poetry and one prose, informed by a particular critical interpretation, i.e. feminist criticism, Marxist criticism, and to produce two essays of between 1250-1500 words, analysing their chosen text through the lens of that particular mode of criticism. The non-exam assessment is worth 20% of their overall A Level grade.

### Year 13

In year 13, students study texts connected by aspects of social and political protest, including:

- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood;
- The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini;
- Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake;

As in year 12, students must respond critically, developing their own interpretations, underpinned by an understanding of the genre and informed by those of other literary critics. They will be taught to make links within and between texts based on aspects of social and political protest. All texts studied in year 13 are assessed in English Literature Paper 2, which is an open book examination.

In Paper 2, in addition to the three open book texts, students are also required to respond to an unseen text. This is to assess their understanding and application of aspects of social and political protest; to assess their ability to analyse how aspects of social and political protest are revealed through the writer's methods, including language and structure. In preparation for this, students will study an anthology of 'unseen texts', compiled by the English Department.