

The courses on offer:

We offer three separate and distinct courses, all administered by AQA:

1. English Language.
2. English Literature.
3. English Language & Literature.

All courses consist of six modules. The first three are taken in Year 12, which comprise the AS part of the qualification. Full A level is achieved by completing a further three modules in Year 13.

Which English course to take?

Although there is inevitably some overlap between the three A levels, each has its own distinctive character.

A Level English Language will teach students how and why language is used in different contexts. Students will be taught linguistic terminology (such as grammar) to facilitate analysis. Other topics such as language change, language acquisition, language and technology, language and gender might be studied.

A Level English Literature obviously concentrates purely on literary texts ranging from 14th Century Chaucer to present day writers such as Alice Walker. A real love of reading challenging literature is essential for this course. Pre-reading and re-reading are very important.

A Level English Language & Literature takes elements from both of the above courses. Grammatical knowledge is a part of this course, as is an understanding of language change over time. In addition to this, students are required to study a range of literary texts. As at GCSE, an anthology of texts grouped around a theme is an essential aspect of the course and poetry figures prominently.

We would strongly advise you discuss your choice with your current English teacher.

Please note that you can only choose ONE A level English subject.

Will I have to do coursework?

Coursework is a vital part of all three courses. To achieve success, students need to be prepared to draft and re-draft their work, listening to and acting upon the detailed advice which will be given by English Staff. Deadlines must be observed.

What makes a good A level English student?

A person who:

- Enjoys reading and re-reading a wide range of texts, both modern and old, literary and non-literary.
- Realises the importance of discussion and sharing ideas.
- Is conscientious and willing to read ahead prior to lessons to arrive well prepared.
- Is prepared to draft, re-draft and re-draft coursework – and meet deadlines.
- Has good literacy skills or is prepared to work very hard to improve them.
- Reads quality newspapers, watches current affairs/documentaries on tv to achieve an informed interest in what is going on in the world – and what has gone on in the past. These can all affect the way we read texts. There is no doubt that a good and expanding general knowledge is a real asset in this subject.
- Remembers that A level English stretches even the brightest students. Hard work is essential from lesson one.

Looking to the future:

A level and degree level English is highly valued by employers. Achieving an A level is proof of an analytical mind, an ability to express often complex and challenging ideas, a knowledge of how language works in the real world.

If you extend your studies to degree level, there is a wide range of courses available ranging from journalism to the Civil Service.

Trips and Visits:

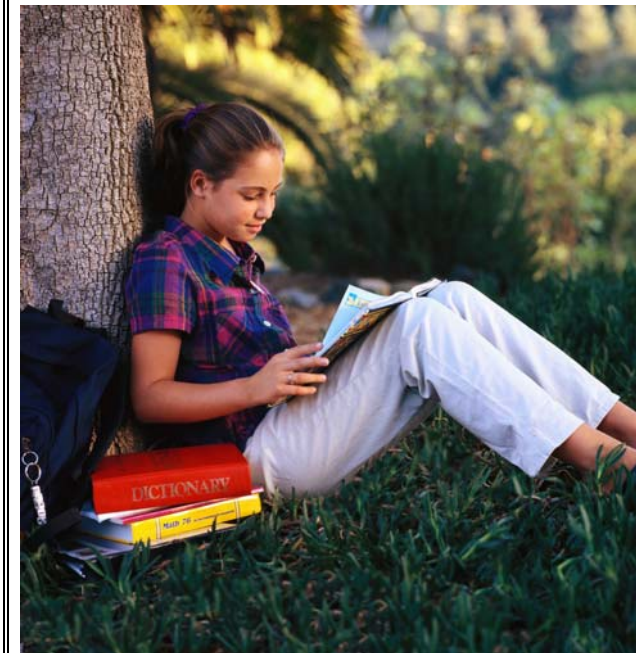
The faculty strives to offer a rich and varied programme of extra-curricular activities.

- Theatre visits.
- Study weekends.
- In-house coursework conferences.
- Visiting speakers.
- Trips to Loughborough University Library.

Current A Level Teachers Are:

- Mrs. K. Fisher – Head of Faculty
- Mrs. A. Allford – Second in Faculty
- Mr. D. Allford – Advanced Skills Teacher
- Mrs. E. Parle – i/c Post-16 English
- Mrs. M. Abbott
- Miss A. Cave
- Mr. D. Fox
- Miss R. Jones
- Mr. B. Mitchell
- Mrs. L. Salt
- Miss S. Taylor

Please feel free to speak to any of the above staff about any queries you may have about A level English at Ashby School



ASHBY SCHOOL ENGLISH FACULTY

ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES - 2007

A level English is a thriving subject at Ashby. We are currently running 15 A level groups, divided between Years 12 and 13. Over 240 students are studying English. In 2006, 77% of our Year 13 students gained grade C or better and we hope to maintain this standard in the coming years.