



## Highsted Grammar School

### The English curriculum

English at Highsted develops clear communication, deep reading and a maturity in literacy and personal expression. We seek to equip our students for a complicated and exciting world in which discernment and canniness in reading, and precision in writing have never been more important.

We strive to nurture curious, cultured and independent learners, by bringing the tradition of classic literature alive in the classroom, and examining the contexts in which it was produced and its relevance to our lives today.

Our aim is to make excellence in reading, writing and speaking clear to students as prime skills for life, as well as enriching their experience of the world with historic and contemporary culture in all its many forms.

### Content

#### Years 7-9

Poetry – We study war poetry to examine the hardships of conflict and its impact on the human spirit.  
Shakespeare – We introduce students to the Bard with scenes from Comedy and as well the full engagement in Tragedy in Romeo and Juliet with its themes of parenting and love.  
Novel and plays – We challenge our students with powerful 20<sup>th</sup> century contextual narratives such as Animal Farm, Of Mice and Men and The Lord of the Flies, and the social and moral themes of The Importance of Being Earnest.  
Creative and descriptive writing – Students learn to craft words to powerfully express themselves.

#### Years 10 & 11

All students study English Language and English Literature. Over the course of two years, students perfect their writing and analytical skills to prepare securely for terminal assessment.

We study:

A Taste of Honey  
Macbeth  
A Christmas Carol  
AQA Poetry Anthology (Love and relationships)

#### Sixth Form

In the sixth form, students are introduced to historically and culturally important texts, and undergraduate-style research and independence.

We study:

Hamlet  
Dracula  
Beloved  
A Streetcar Named Desire  
The Picture of Dorian Gray  
The Great Gatsby  
Contemporary Poetry

#### Extra-curricular opportunities

Debating and public speaking, World Book Day competition, theatre trips and author visits