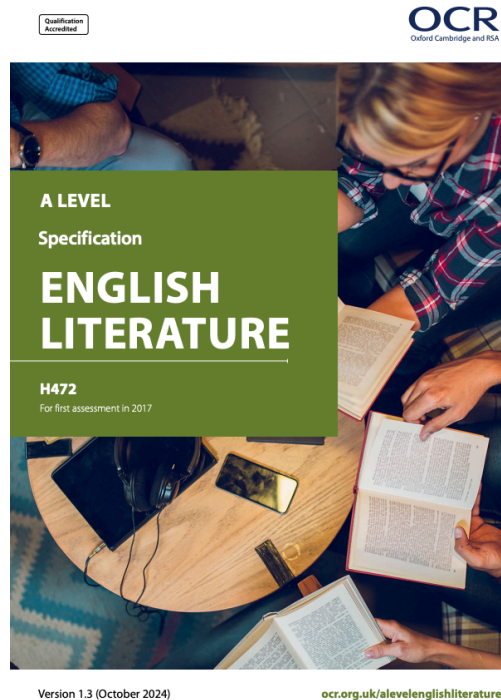


English Literature - Head Start Activities



Dear Students,

Welcome to your Head Start Activities for **English Literature**. Transitioning to Sixth Form is an exciting step and at Norbury High School for Girls, we are here to help you start strong. This Head Start booklet is designed to support your move into NHSG Sixth Form, giving you the chance to explore your chosen subjects, prepare for future success, and begin shaping your next chapter with confidence.

We look forward to working with you from September

Ms Kennedy

Course details:

- Title: A-Level English Literature
- Level: A-Level H472
- Board: OCR
- [Website](#) link
- NHSG Course information linked [here](#)

In these activities and ideas you will find not only opportunities to stretch your thinking but also to help you discover what you are passionate about, both inside and beyond the classroom

Listen to podcasts and talks, by subject experts and inspiring female leaders.

- BBC Radio 4 *Bookclub* podcast with Carol Ann Duffy - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00d3wr1>
- BBC Radio 4 In Our Time *The Gothic* podcast - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0054792>

Watch documentaries, interviews, or mini-lectures linked to your subjects to deepen your understanding.

- [Massolit lectures](#): *Dracula*, *The World's Wife*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- Professor John Bowen discusses key motifs in Gothic novels, including the uncanny, the sublime and the supernatural. <https://www.britishlibrary.cn/en/articles/video-the-gothic/>

Read articles, essays, or books that challenge your thinking and expand your subject knowledge.

- Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire**
- Khaled Hosseini: *A Thousand Splendid Suns**
- Henrik Ibsen: *A Doll's House**
- Carol Ann Duffy: *The World's Wife**
- Bram Stoker: *Dracula**
- Oscar Wilde: *The Picture of Dorian Gray**
- William Beckford: *Vathek*
- Ann Radcliffe: *The Italian*
- Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*
- William Faulkner: *Light in August*
- Daphne du Maurier: *Rebecca*
- Cormac McCarthy: *Outer Dark*
- Iain Banks: *The Wasp Factory*

*compulsory exam / coursework texts

Visit local exhibitions, galleries, or workplaces that connect with your studies and open your eyes to future possibilities.

- The British Library, London.
- *The Gothic* exhibition at the V&A Museum (Free)

Go beyond the essentials, to explore big questions and wider issues. What are the big challenges facing your subject?

- Is it possible for a reader to truly understand an author's intended meaning, or is interpretation always subjective?
- Can literature be a force for social change, or is it primarily a form of entertainment or aesthetic expression? Has literature ever changed society's views?
- What are the ethical implications of reading and interpreting literature and how should we approach potentially offensive, shocking or challenging texts?