**English Literature: Top Tips for Success at A Level**

**Teacher tips:**

* Read ahead. It is an expectation that you read to the end of each text as quickly as you can, and that you re-read the sections you know are going to be covered in the next lesson.
* Read widely – you could read from texts from a similar genre, but also literary criticism in the periodicals in the library (e-magazine and The English Review) and online. It is important to experience fluent writing of a high standard.
* Engage as frequently as possible in whole class discussions. Contribute your opinion and listen carefully to the ideas of others.
* Get used to taking notes during discussions (whether based on teacher’s ideas or students’) without having to be prompted first by the teacher.
* Be organised. Go over your notes taken in the lesson and organise and summarise them at home.
* Learn, and practise using, a specific literary register, especially for narrative devices.
* Write concise, fluent and well-structured prose that conveys your argument clearly and guides the reader well.
* Know the specific Assessment Requirements for each question.
* Active revision – you need to be completing practice essays in timed conditions and responding carefully to the targets you received on the last piece of work.
* Take pride in your work. Only submit something once you have proof-read it carefully.

**Student tips:**

* Finish reading the texts thoroughly and as quickly as you can; always re-read relevant chapters/poems before the lesson.
* Set the right foundations from the beginning by learning to write about aspects of narrative.
* Take detailed notes from class discussions. Organise them at home, based around key narrative terms (form, structure, voice etc).
* Look at past papers and mark schemes; use the criteria to mark all the work you do.
* Be independent; if you have missed anything or not completed tasks in lessons, catch up at home.