

1

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE A-LEVEL?

The study of English Literature is a study of the human condition, where you get as close as possible to a first-hand experience of some of the most influential events and people in history. Any text is a product of its time; a study of it will teach you to read in context and to understand the effects on a piece of literature and the influences on the author at the time of writing. Through your reading, you will develop a clearer appreciation of history, society and psychology, whilst developing essential skills such as analysis, evaluation, essay writing, and critical thinking.

2

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

During your time at RSFC, you will study a mixture of drama, prose and poetry texts. A typical year one begins with the study of Phillip Larkin's *The Less Deceived*, before moving on to a comparison of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*. You finish with F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, which you will compare to a text of your choosing. In year two, you start by studying William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, before moving on to Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*. Finally, you study an anthology, *Poems of the Decade*, comparing this collection of innovative and modern poems to unseen poetry.

3

WHAT CAN I GO ON TO STUDY WITH AN ENGLISH LITERATURE A-LEVEL?

English Literature is one of the Russell Group universities' 'facilitating' subjects — so called because choosing them at A-Level provides a student with essential skills that are desirable across a wide range of degree courses. English Literature is an essential subject for an English degree. Some drama, media studies, American studies and law degree courses will also ask for an English Literature or Language A-level. The Russell Group Informed Choices guide also recommends English Literature A-level for those who want to take degree courses in classics, French and other modern languages, teacher training, history, history of art, politics, and religious studies.

4

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

You will sit three exams worth 80% of your final mark and one piece of coursework worth 20%. The exam is split into three different papers: Paper 1: Drama, Paper 2: Prose, and Paper 3: Poetry.