

voice@varndean

voice@varndean is the English Society here at Varndean College. We organise debates, poetry cafes, competitions and update you regularly on interesting articles, events in the local area and in college. We encourage all students to participate through the google site voice@varndean.ac.uk and follow us on twitter @voicevarndean

Trips

We hope to organise a range of trips (covid restrictions permitting). Past trips have included visits to the RSC and National Theatre Live performances at the cinema, to the Globe theatre in London and to the Ardingly Shakespeare Conference.

Student success and destinations

Our students achieve highly, often attaining the very highest of marks and grades. Many go on to study English at university: in recent years we have had students gain places at Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, Exeter, Leeds. Others go on to successfully study on a wide range of university degrees.

"Stimulating, interesting, friendly, fun. I loved this course."



For more information, contact Cathy Jackson, chj@varndean.ac.uk

A Level English Literature



A Level English Literature (Eduqas)

“Studying English Literature at Varndean College broadens your perspective on life” Ayo Okoje

The Course

Component 1: Poetry 2-hour exam (30%)

- Pre-1900: **John Donne:** *Selected Poems*
- Post-1900: **Thomas Hardy:** poems selected by Tom Paulin and **T S Eliot:** *Selected Poems*

Component 2: Drama 2-hour exam (30%)

- **Shakespeare:** *King Lear*
- **Tennessee Williams:** *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- **John Webster:** *Duchess of Malfi*

Component 3: Unseen Texts 2-hour exam (20%)

- Unseen prose from period 1918-1939
- Unseen poetry

Component 4: Coursework 2500-3500-word assignment (20%)

A comparison of 2 prose texts:

- one taught pre-2000 text
- one post-2000 text chosen from a recommended list of contemporary novels

“I loved the range of books. It was brilliant to get a choice of texts for coursework and that we got to suggest one we would like to study.”



Reading is central to the course

You will read and analyse a wide variety of texts from different ages and genres and develop your understanding of the ways in which meanings are shaped through close reading. You will examine texts in their relevant social, historical and cultural contexts, investigating the ways in which texts are influenced by and have influence on the contexts in which they are written and received. You will explore different ways they can be interpreted through discussion and the reading of critical discourse. You will be encouraged to read widely and have the opportunity, within the coursework component, to write independently on a contemporary text of your own choice.

To this end our classrooms are inclusive, with much discussion and interactivity. Our choice of texts and the way in which we teach them reflects a commitment to celebrating diversity of voice in the world in which we live. We aim to foster a climate where every student's contributions are valued and in which there is close attention to helping the individual achieve their highest potential.

Students say of studying English Literature at Varndean that it is inspiring, stimulating, that it is a friendly to study and one that helps them achieve highly.

Creative Writing

Varndean College offer a weekly class for writers run by award-winning poet and dramatist Rachel Shorer. It is an extra-curricular activity open to all. In the lunchtime session Rachel leads workshops on developing students' skills in different aspects of creative writing. Prose, poetry, drama and script writing are all covered. Rachel also offers detailed advice on individual work in progress.

