



Year 9 Pathways Assembly



GCSE English Language and English Literature



Mrs Dunleavy





SALE HIGH SCHOOL
Welcome To
English
Year 9 Pathways Assembly

English Language and English Literature
Mrs Dunleavy – Head of KS4 English



What you need to know



- You will leave Sale High School with 2 GCSEs in English: English Language and English Literature.
- This is a core subject which means you have to do it.

In 2025:

76% of pupils achieved grades 4-9 in English Literature

68% achieved grades 4-9 in English Language

We are above the national averages for the whole country!

20% achieved grades 7-9 for English Literature

15% achieved grades 7-9 for English Language

The top grades are possible – but you need to work hard for them.





English Language



Exam board at a glance: AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

Exam: 100% exam.

2 exam papers. Both are 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

You will be given extracts of unseen texts and need to read, comment and analyse on the writers' use of language and structure. You will be expected to write either a creative descriptive or narrative (story), and you will be expected to write either a: speech, letter or article.

There are no higher or foundation tiers. All pupils sit the same exams.

Coursework: None – BUT there is a “non-assessed” spoken language presentation ALL pupils have to complete as part of their GCSE in English Language. You will complete this in Y10.

Crucial to know: If you do not achieve a grade 4, you **HAVE** to re-sit. Your English Language GCSE is a qualification all colleges/sixth forms expect you to pass whether you wish to study the subject or not.





English Literature



Exam board at a glance: AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

Exam: 100% exam.

2 exam papers:

Paper 1: 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare, and 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. It is 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 2: 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley, Power and Conflict poetry & Unseen poetry. It is 2 hours and 15 minutes.

You are expected to have your own copies of these set texts. School will provide them at a very good price, and you can purchase them via Parent Pay in Year 10/11.

There are no higher or foundation tiers. All pupils sit the same exams.

Coursework: None.

For more information: speak to your English teachers.





University courses

- English Language
- English Literature
- English (mixed)
- Education: primary or secondary
- Linguistics
- Journalism
- Law
- Digital media, production and technology
- History





English career opportunities



- Marketing executive
- Advertising
- Journalist, editor, copywriter
- Teacher/lecturer
- Solicitor/lawyer
- Freelance writer
- Museum curator

