

# TEXTUAL STUDIES WITH DR ALISON SEARLE

## TALKING POINTS

### KNOWLEDGE & COMPREHENSION:

1. Describe some of the characteristics of pastoral care.
2. What do the three faith communities that Alison is looking at have in common?
3. Why do you think studying historical documents is important?

### APPLICATION:

4. How might developing an understanding of pastoral care and well-being in the 17th century help shape our understanding of present-day care?
5. If you were a researcher of textual studies, where would you apply your skills? Is there a specific time period and/or topic that you would like to focus on? Why?

### ANALYSIS:

6. What effects have the pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement had on the project? How do contemporary events relate to history? Be specific and refer to events you have heard about in the news, if you can.

### EVALUATION:

7. In the time period that Alison is looking at, letter writing was a pursuit that very few people could engage with. The majority of people were illiterate and of those that were written, only a small number of letters still exist. How does this affect any conclusions that are drawn from projects such as Alison's?

## MORE RESOURCES

### UNIVERSITY OUTREACH FOR SCHOOLS

If you are interested in pursuing higher education, then this resource is ideal to get a real feel for university life: [educationoutreach.leeds.ac.uk](https://educationoutreach.leeds.ac.uk)

### WIDENING PARTICIPATION

The University of Leeds' Widening Participation scheme aims to remove all barriers to studying and learning. It is designed to raise aspirations, bring pupils onto campus to experience university and support student volunteers going into schools: [www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130547/student\\_education/3671/widening\\_participation](https://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130547/student_education/3671/widening_participation)

### SCHOOL OF ENGLISH OUTREACH

Here, you can check out Alison's faculty and some of the events, activities and resources that are available for students: [artsoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/our-subjects/english/](https://artsoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/our-subjects/english/)

## ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

- How does your writing change depending on who you are writing to and in what form?
- Write a short letter to a grandparent or older relative, friend or neighbour telling them about what you have been up to in the last 7 days.
- Now, write the text for a WhatsApp message to a friend covering the same time period.

### Consider these questions:

- What are the key differences in the two texts you have written? (How does the content differ? How does your tone change?)
- What does each piece of writing reveal about you and your day to day life? (How do you occupy your time? What is important to you?)
- What does this exercise reveal about context and audience?
- What does this tell you about what needs to be considered when studying historical documents?

- Write a letter from the point of view of the leader of a community in the 17th century. Imagine the letter is to someone with no knowledge of the community and you have to provide brief descriptions of some people within it. Are they doing well? What are your daily activities? How do you help those who are in need of care?

- Imagine you are interviewing Alison for the school website. Write a list of 5 questions you want to ask her. You might want to find out more about her career path, motivations, how she conducts her research and where her research will lead in the future.