

# LITERACY AT MEADOWHEAD

## LITERACY IN LESSONS

Literacy is important at Meadowhead because it provides access to all knowledge: within and beyond the school curriculum. We believe in the development of students as literate learners; we develop reading, writing and speaking skills in all subject areas.

## VOCABULARY

All subject areas have academic subject-specific vocabulary. We want students to be word-rich and develop a broad vocabulary. To support this we:

- Identify key words for each topic;
- Teach academic vocabulary explicitly;
- Give students chance to develop and practise new vocabulary in speech and in writing.

## READING

The average reading age required for a GCSE exam paper is 15.7. To support students with reading we:

- Provide a range of interesting texts;
- Develop their prior knowledge so they can access a text;
- Read texts aloud;
- Get students to ask questions about texts;
- Develop different reading skills like retrieval, decoding, scanning, inference, evaluation and cross-reference;
- Provide subject-specific reading lists;
- Subject-specific texts in the Library.



## WRITING

Students are required to be able to communicate confidently and accurately in writing. To support this we:

- Provide models of writing;
- Support students with technical accuracy;
- Provide opportunities for extended writing;
- Share good examples of students' work.



## EXTENDED LITERACY SUPPORT

- Reading Mentors – older students are trained to support younger students with reading
- Supported reading programmes for small groups of students in morning Reading Time
- Additional literacy lessons for students in year 7, 8 and 9.
- A dedicated SEND team with specialist knowledge to support students with literacy needs



## LITERACY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### The benefits of reading

We place huge importance on reading both for pleasure and to enhance attainment. As well as being a hugely enjoyable experience, being a regular reader has been scientifically proven to have many academic benefits. Reading enhances vocabulary, improves the ability to communicate and broadens a person's depth of cultural, historical and social knowledge. Reading also develops other generic interpersonal skills like the ability to empathise. There is a direct correlation with regular readers and achieving success.

## READING FOR PLEASURE

- Well-stocked library with the latest fiction and non-fiction texts
- Promote a Book of the Week (BOTW)
- Morning Reading Time for students in year 7, 8 and 9
- BookBuzz – free book for all year 7 students
- Celebrate national reading initiatives like World Book Day / National Poetry Day
- Cultural trips to the theatre

