

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

