



## How do we teach Literacy?

### 1. Reading

**Reading for Pleasure: Independent studies show how learning to love reading can transform a child's prospects for success in school and the world beyond.**

-English teachers take their groups to the library regularly to discuss books and make recommendations to each other.

- All pupils are expected to read at home at least 5 times a week.

-All pupils read at least once a week in tutor time

#### **Reading Toolkit (appendix 1)**

Teachers model the reading strategies that will help pupils engage with a text.

e.g.

- Can you predict what the text will be about from the title?

- Encourage pupils to ask spontaneous questions about what they are reading.

- Model how to get 'unstuck': e.g. reading backwards and forwards.

- Model how to scan for relevant evidence to use in their answer.

- Ask questions that draw out what they can infer.

#### **Written Response to Reading / Long answer exam questions: How should I tackle a PEE?**

a. Highlight the key words in the question

b. Find a piece of evidence /example that helps you answer the question.

c. **Point**: Respond to words from the question to make a clear point.

d. **Evidence / Example**: Copy the piece of evidence inside quotation marks or refer to the example.

e. **Explain** in your own words what you can infer and deduce. Explain or justify your thinking.

#### **Are you ready for SPEED in English?**

**Signpost**: Help your reader understand which part of the text you are analysing.

e.g.

In the opening paragraph, ... (this is a subordinate clause, not a complete sentence!)

When Bruno visits Shmuel for the first time, ....

**Discussion**: Use a connective to explore the layers of meaning.

e.g.

Zoom in on a word and explain the effect.

How is the writer trying to influence the reader?

How does your example link to other parts of the text?

## **2. Writing**

### **PAT**

Focus on 'PAT' to help pupils plan a piece of writing:

Purpose – what are you writing it for?

Audience – who is it aimed at?

Text Type – what format should you choose?

### **Vocabulary**

- Year 7 pupils will be provided with a key vocabulary booklet that includes all subjects.
- All pupils will be provided with lists of terminology appropriate to each subject.
- Model strategies for learning and using terminology.
- Model strategies for learning complex vocabulary. **(appendix 2)**

### **Punctuation and Grammar**

- Encourage pupils to orally rehearse their ideas before writing.
- Remind pupils to re-read their work and 'hear' the sentences in their head.
- Encourage pupils to find and correct their own punctuation mistakes.

## **3. Speaking and Listening**

- Encourage pupils to answer questions in full sentences.
- Insist on the use of Standard English.
- Encourage pupils to challenge and develop other pupils' ideas.

## **4. Independent Research (appendix 3)**

- Use 'Hands up for Research' template to explicitly teach a structured approach to research (not cutting and pasting).
- Emphasise the importance of evaluating the information found.
- Emphasise the importance of acknowledging sources.

## **5. Common approach to exam and test questions**

1. Manage your time (write down the finish time for each question).
2. Highlight key words in the instructions and questions.
3. Ask yourself what kind of question is this? What are the command words? What should my answer be like?
4. Plan big ideas / key words to include.
5. Order the ideas in your plan.
6. Tick off the ideas in your plan as you cover them.