

Strand 1: Building Academic Vocabulary

We will support students by:

- Using, in every subject across the curriculum, a range of teaching strategies to support students in building a bank of academic words.
- Providing students with lists of key words and definitions for each subject, each half-term. These are available in the Whole School Vocab Team, as well as being shared by individual teachers with their classes.
- Testing students' retention of academic and subject-specific vocabulary at the end of each half term.
- Encouraging our students to become 'word-conscious' and introducing them to 'powerful' words.
- Engaging staff in regular Literacy training and CPD to ensure high standards across the college.
- Implementing the whole school homework policy, which includes opportunities for students to revise and apply a range of tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary.

Tier 2: High frequency words in written texts, less common in speech. E.g. beneficial, maintain, required.

Tier 3: Subject specific, academic language. E.g. osmosis, trigonometry.

You can further support your child by:

- Encouraging them to read regularly and widely, making use of resources (dictionaries, Google!) to define new and unfamiliar words.
- Talking with your child about what they have read, drawing attention to a writer's vocabulary choices.
- Sharing 'everyday' texts with your child by reading them aloud and discussing the meanings of words. For example, newspaper articles, official letters (as appropriate), leaflets etc.

Strand 2: Developing Oracy

We will support students by:

- Modelling high standards of spoken and written English.
- Providing, in all curriculum areas, opportunities for high-quality classroom talk.
- Making use of 'speaking frames' to support students in articulating their ideas in a clear and coherent way.
- Offering all staff the opportunity to attend training relating to the importance of oracy, and the best ways to support students in developing their speaking skills.
- Giving students the opportunity to participate in our in school Debate Club and national competitions such as 'Poetry by Heart'

You can further support your child by:

- Speaking with them about what they have learnt at school.
- Encouraging them to expand on their ideas and opinions. E.g. "That's interesting, why do you think...?"
- Challenging them to use precise and ambitious words in their everyday speech.
- Verbally remodelling grammatically incorrect sentences as part of everyday conversation.

Strand 3: Refining Writing

We will support students by:

- Tying together vocabulary instruction with the teaching of spelling patterns, including word roots and morphology.
- Ensuring students access explicit teaching of grammar in English lessons.
- Having a whole school approach to extended writing, including the use of models and writing frames to encourage students to articulate themselves in a clear and sophisticated way.

You can further support your child by:

- Asking them to read homework aloud (when possible). This can be a valuable step in editing and improving written work, as grammatical errors become more apparent when a piece of writing is read out loud.
- Setting timers for extended writing homework tasks (particularly at Ks4).
- Encouraging them to read regularly and widely. (Yes, again!)

Strand 4: Fostering a Reading Culture

We will support students by:

- Opening the Library to students at lunch-time (everyday) and after school (Tuesdays and Thursdays).
- Running clubs such as The Reading Café, where students can come to explore new additions to the Library and talk about reading with students from other year groups.
- Electing students as 'Reading Ambassadors', whose role is to help to promote reading across the college.
- Holding seasonal Reading Events, where parents, students and teachers can come together to celebrate reading.
- Taking part in the Carnegie shadowing award.
- Listing 'Book Recommendations' on the school/Library website.
- Recording and releasing half-termly episodes of the English Department's podcast: Rather Be Reading.

You can further support your child by:

- Encouraging them to read regularly and widely. (Yes, it's that important!)
- Encouraging them to visit the Library and to borrow a book. (We have a selection of fiction and non-fiction texts, including graphic novels and gaming annuals.)
- Listening to the podcast together.
- Making time to read together at home, or to talk about what you have been reading.

Strand 5: Targeting Interventions

We will support students by:

- Identifying those who would benefit from additional support in reading and writing.
- Running interventions for Ks3 students, lead by specially trained teachers and TAs, including the Lexonik and Lexonik Leap programmes.
- Running interventions for targeted Ks4 students, with a focus on exam skills and exam literacy.
- Introducing Tutor Time interventions in Year 7, where students benefit from additional Literacy lessons delivered by English teachers.
- Inviting students to attend Homework Club.

You can further support your child by:

- Contacting their subject teachers/form tutor if you have any concerns about their reading, writing or speaking skills.