

Witchford Village College Whole School Literacy Plan

Increasing students' vocabulary by:

- Consistently using, in every subject across the curriculum, a range of teaching strategies that support explicit vocabulary instruction, and challenge students to use 'upgraded' vocabulary so they talk and write like experts.
- Testing students' retention of academic vocabulary at the end of each half term.
- Regular staff training to ensure high standards across the college.
- Encouraging our students to become 'word conscious.'
- Whole school homework policy with embedded vocab instruction.



What can I do as a parent?

- Encourage your child to read regularly and widely.
- Provide your child with sentence stems to use in order to talk about their work. For instance, 'The writer communicates...'

'It would seem that ____ is a symbol for...'

'The main emotion I wanted to communicate is ____ so I ____'

- Encourage your child to use tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary often.

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.

Fostering a reading culture by:

- Weekly tutor time reading.
- Seasonal Reading Events.
- Use of the library during lunch times.
- Taking part in the Carnegie shadowing award.
- Literacy Calendar Events.
- Book Recommendations on the website.
- Half termly episodes of the English Department's podcast: Rather Be Reading.
- A recommended reading list [here](#).



What can I do as a parent?

- Prompt your child to check a book out of the library.
- Listen to the podcast with your child and discuss what you found interesting and why.
- Ask your child what happened in their tutor reading session. Ask about their feelings towards characters and events, as well as predictions for future events. To see some information about the novel, and some example questions: [click here](#).
 - Y7: When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr.
 - Y9: Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys.
 - Y9: Woman in Black by Susan Hill.
 - Y10: Catcher in the Rye by J.D Salinger.
 - Y11: Never Let me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Developing reading across the college by:

- Developing a structured and consistent approach to teaching reading through whole school professional development.
- Our Peer Reading Scheme: once a week Y7 students will read with Y10 students.
- Targeted Lexonik interventions to support students in making rapid progress in reading, spelling, vocabulary and comprehension.
- Academic reading sessions in various departments.



What can I do as a parent?

- Read the blog to keep up to date with news from each department.
- Encourage your child to read widely, including non-fiction texts. The British Library have a wealth of interesting articles: <https://www.bl.uk/> There are also a number of science journals online too: https://sciencejournalforkids.org/articles/reading_level/high-school-upper/

Developing writing across the college by:

- Practising spelling rules in half termly vocab tests.
- Regular staff training to ensure a structured and consistent approach to teaching and modelling writing strategies.
- Exciting 'Big Write' projects.

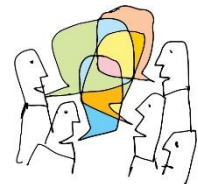


What can I do as a parent?

- Checking that your child is completing their homework each week.
- Encouraging your child to practise writing for extended periods of time.

Developing oracy across the college by:

- Consistently providing opportunities for high quality talk in the classroom.
- Regular staff training to develop the expertise of our teachers.



What can I do as a parent?

- Provide your child with structured sentence stems (see the vocabulary section) to ensure they are able to communicate succinctly and ambitiously.