

## Literacy at Eastbrook School

We believe that it is the responsibility of all teachers at Eastbrook School, to be teachers of Literacy. We recognise and advocate Literacy as a set of life skills. Communication is necessary in today's society, to allow each of us to make informed choices and decisions, in all aspects of our everyday lives. Being literate means that our students are taught to communicate in a range of contexts that will support them in their personal and working lives. We will develop all modes of communication skills to ensure students become confident speakers, readers and writers, and will encourage them to communicate in a variety of ways, in a wide variety of contexts. Our aims are to raise achievement through a whole school approach to Literacy, which reflects our ethos: "together we learn".

### What happens in school?

- Wonderopolis is a website used in form time. We use this website to link in with our 'Big Idea Assembly,' themes, in order to encourage students to become wide readers, who explore their natural curiosity about the world around them. We link this to developing vocabulary and spelling skills to broaden students' Literacy skills.
- Department representatives disseminate information and key skills, via termly meetings and adaptive resources.
- In-house training and INSETS take place regularly to promote and develop teachers' knowledge and understanding of Literacy and Numeracy, as key life skills.
- We are developing a sixth form and Year 11 volunteer 'Reading Buddy,' scheme. Students are trained to teach the key skills involved in developing comprehension with younger students who find reading challenging. Developing readers meet with their 'Reading Buddy,' and practise reading and comprehension skills on a weekly basis.
- As a school, we are promoting and developing, reciprocal teaching strategies, used to promote independent thinkers and learners, across the curriculum. The strategy explicitly teaches the key skills of predicting, clarifying, questioning and summarising, which have been highly successful in supporting developing learners. Recent research suggests that this is a highly effective strategy for developing independent learners with critical questioning skills, necessary for progressing across the curriculum.
- The role of the Library has been key to developing wider reading. We are continuing with our successful use of the Accelerated Reader Scheme. Students read, then quiz and are rewarded for every quiz successfully passed. After initial testing, students are provided with their colour zone,

aimed specifically at their reading level, and progress through the scheme during Key Stage 3. Later in the autumn term, parents are provided with a summary of their child's reading skills, and are provided with a website link and their own personal code, which allows parents to check their child's progress in reading on the website from home.

- We have a number of small scale Literacy Projects with key classes, which aim to develop students' Literacy skills, at an accelerated rate. We have worked with key reading specialists, and have undertaken external training, in order to provide students with the best possible support, based on recent research into developing students' Literacy skills.
- Our wonderful teaching assistants provide Form Time reading with targeted students, in order to utilise every spare moment for developing students' reading and comprehension skills. The strategy used combines reading with discussion skills which together promote comprehension of the text.
- Resources are sent to all teachers on a weekly basis which representatives adapt for their department. Representatives create starters, plenaries, or mini-lessons within a lesson, resulting in teachers' knowledge and understanding of Literacy, developing across the school.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Yr 7	Big Idea	Assembly	Future Ready	Numeracy	Literacy
Yr 8	Big Idea	Future Ready	Assembly	Numeracy	Literacy

- Each year the Senior Leadership team conduct a focus week activity to quality assure the provision at Eastbrook School.