

West Lakes Academy

Extract from our Policy for Literacy across the curriculum:

- Pupils: will respond to marking for literacy; are encouraged to take full advantage of support and resources provided for them; will be provided with strategies to enable to take increasing responsibility for recognising own literacy needs and to address weaknesses; know how to and can get help with their literacy skills as needed.
- Parents: encourage children to use the range of strategies and support materials offered by the academy like: library books – including Accelerated Reader books; on-line reading quizzes; tasks linked to IPADs and apps; Lexia; spelling aids; THRASS resources as provided; the information in planners, on MILK and on the school website.

Parents can contact our Literacy Coordinator – **Mrs Y. Ross** - at the academy with any literacy related concern. Email: rossy@westlakesacademy.org.uk

Parents are encouraged to support reading and to show an interest in their child's reading by asking questions and offering opinions, and to listen to their child read, especially if their child's reading age is below his/her chronological age. Parents are requested to ensure that time is available for homework and that it is completed conscientiously. Pupils need to be encouraged to check what they have written as this will encourage children to take responsibility for their work, ensure that pupils understand that literacy skills are always important in their school work. Parents are invited seek literacy support and guidance for their child as necessary through the academy.

Literacy across the curriculum

Literacy involves the ability to speak, read and write; however, it is also the capacity to recognise, reproduce and manipulate the conventions of a range of texts and a variety of modes. Literacy and English are intertwined because it is an important aspect of our ability to communicate. There are traditional and newer forms of literacy (on-screen literacy and moving image media) to consider. Literacy is important because it enables pupils to gain access to the subjects studied in school, to read for information and for pleasure, and to communicate effectively. Competent literacy skills enable pupils to read, understand and access examination materials, so that pupils are able to achieve their educational potential across the curriculum.

All academy departments and teachers have a crucial role to play in supporting students' literacy development. All teachers are teachers of literacy. As such, all staff at West Lakes Academy are committed to developing literacy skills in all of our pupils because:

- Literacy skills are always important and transferrable, both in and outside of school
- Pupils need vocabulary, expression and organisational control to cope with the cognitive demands of subjects
- Reading helps us to learn from sources beyond our immediate experience
- Speaking and writing helps us to sustain and order thought
- Language helps us to reflect on, revise and evaluate the things we do, and the things others have said, written or done
- Responding to higher order questions encourages the development of thinking skills and enquiry

- Literacy skills and learning can have an impact on pupils' self-esteem, on motivation and behaviour
- Literate students are much more able to learn independently
- Literacy means more choices and greater empowerment

Aims of West Lakes Academy

We are committed to raising the standards of literacy for all pupils so that they develop the ability to use these skills effectively in all areas of the curriculum and as a platform for the demands of further education, employment and adult life.

Literacy underpins the school curriculum by developing pupils' abilities to speak, listen and communicate, to read, to think, explore and organise. This includes helping students to become capable readers and to express themselves orally and in writing. West Lakes Academy continually strives to produce effective communicators. Effective communication comprises:

- The successful application of a range of appropriate communication, reading and writing skills
- The ability to communicate articulately in a range of forms and contexts and for different purposes.

Objectives

1. To support and develop literacy skills as a way of enabling pupils to achieve their full educational potential across the curriculum
2. To approach Literacy across the curriculum in relation to students' abilities and needs.
3. To offer differentiated literacy support.
4. To support pupils to that see literacy skills open up pathways to achievement.

“The academy ensures that students make good progress in acquiring secure skills in literacy... Reading is widely encouraged and students who fall behind in their reading get the support they need to catch up.”

Ofsted. 19–20 February 2013. Inspection report: West Lakes Academy.