

# Literacy

## What is Literacy?

Literacy incorporates all aspects of Oracy, Reading and Writing. Students with good literacy skills are able to make faster progress in lessons, as well as develop into independent thinkers and successful learners; this leads to higher levels of achievement.

Literacy skills are essential in all subjects, not just English. Being able to understand questions, locate information, explain ideas, analyse and evaluate texts are skills which are needed across the curriculum. At GCSE and at KS5, in a variety of subjects, a number of marks can be awarded or deducted on the basis of accurate grammar and spelling.

Beyond education, literacy continues to be important. The process of applying for jobs, filling in forms and writing letters are just some of the things that our students will be expected to do. Additionally, simple activities such as browsing the internet, reading magazines, and choosing from menus are all reasons why literacy skills need to be developed and supported both in school and at home.

## Literacy at The John Frost School

Within school, there are a range of literacy issues that we aim to tackle. These issues include:

- Develop an ability to speak in different contexts for a variety of purposes, using Standard English.
- Read and understand a range of texts, including continuous and non-continuous, in order to interpret, analyse and use information.
- Basic punctuation errors including capital letters, full stops, apostrophes and commas.
- Structuring writing including paragraphing appropriately, and using a variety of sentences.
- Developing a greater range of vocabulary and learning various spelling strategies
- Providing the opportunity to write extensively

During all lessons across the curriculum, there are specific tasks set and completed regularly to help improve pupils' literacy. Furthermore, we have a specialist Literacy Intervention tutor who works with small groups which are an addition to their timetabled lessons to help address these issues.

## How can parents help?

Here are some specific examples of what you can do at home to further support your child's developing literacy skills:

- Have regular, extended discussions which allow your child to give their thoughts, opinions and ask questions e.g. talk about their day at school or discuss current affairs.
- Read at home regularly, including both fiction and non-fiction texts e.g. novels, newspapers, leaflets and websites.
- Visit bookshops to encourage reading for pleasure.
- Practise creative writing for fun, such as narrative writing and poetry.
- Encourage them to create interesting mnemonics and calligrams to help them with words they find difficult.