

November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

Now that we are in the second half term of the academic year at Outwood Academy Foxhills, we are very excited to tell you about our approach to teaching literacy in our Academy. Over the past few weeks, our dedicated teaching staff have been undertaking training on our Trust policies for the way we approach reading, writing, speaking, and listening in our school. This training will continue throughout the year to ensure that our students are receiving the very best teaching and learning to maximise opportunities in their future.

Literacy is extremely important both in school to make our students successful learners, but also in their life outside and beyond Outwood Academy Foxhills. Effective literacy is vital to our students becoming safe, respectful, and responsible members of the wider society. Our Academy has therefore put in place a robust literacy programme based on our Literacy for Learning and Life policy to enhance our students' literacy skills and make them knowledgeable and successful learners. This letter contains information on some of the activities and initiatives we are engaging in at Outwood Academy Foxhills and how you can support our students to make the most out of them.

#### Literacy for learning in lessons:

Our students are given literacy starters at the beginning of lessons. These provide practice on common grammar and proofreading which students can transfer to their own written work.

Students have a glossary of key terms for each subject. These are kept in their exercise books and referred to regularly. Students will be expected to understand and know these terms and be able to apply the knowledge in their work. You can support at home by asking students about these key terms and how they use them in lessons.

Students regularly use collaborative structures in their lessons. These structures enhance students' listening and discussion skills to enable them to articulate their thoughts in an effective manner. There is also an emphasis on praise at Outwood Academy Foxhills and students are expected to praise their peers for their contributions. A range of 'praise phrases' are provided to assist with this.

Students have been provided with orange vocabulary books which they should keep with them all the time. They are to be used across all subjects to add vocabulary that they will come across and may not understand. Students should use this in addition to their glossaries to expand their vocabulary and make a conscious effort to use it in their spoken and written English.

#### VMG Literacy

Literacy is embedded in VMG time once a week. Students work through a VMG Literacy booklet which incorporates guided reading, proofreading, and numeracy comprehension exercises. A weekly Word of the Week is also introduced with this. Students also take part in spelling tests bi-weekly for which they collect spellings throughout all subjects. Their scores are entered into a tracker and every week, a VMG wins a prize and a certificate. Please support our students by reminding them to practise their spellings at home.

### Lunchtime Chilli Challenge

Every Wednesday our students can take part in the lunchtime Chilli Challenge. This incorporates two literacy challenges and one numeracy challenge to enhance knowledge of the dirty thirty spellings. Every week, five correct entries are chosen at random and awarded prizes.

### Reading for Pleasure

Here at Outwood Academy Foxhills we wish to nurture and develop our students' love for reading and therefore we have put in place the following provisions:

- Year 10 Reading for pleasure – Year 10 students are taken once every fortnight to the library to relax and read for pleasure. They can take out books and enjoy reading in a calm atmosphere.
- Year 7 to Year 9 – Our Key Stage 3 year groups take part in the Accelerated Reader Programme. Students go down to the library once a week where they can sit and read, quiz, and exchange their books. We really do have a lovely range of books that are updated regularly and accessible to students. Key Stage 3 students will have homework from their literacy lessons to read 4 times over the course of the week for at least 20 minutes each time, logging their reads in their reading log and getting an adult at home to sign it off to say they are aware their child has read. You can support by reminding them to read four times and making sure that they are logging in their AR logs.
- The library is open every day before school begins, at break times and at lunch times for all students to sit and read, quiz their books, or change their books.

### After School Enrichments:

A range of after school clubs are offered to engage our students with their literacy and these are added to throughout the year. Currently, we have the following clubs running:

Reading club – Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm

Board Games Club - Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm

Film Club – Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm

Journalism Club – Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm

We appreciate this is a lot of information to take in and hope that you will be able to support us and our students by encouraging them with their literacy so that we can collectively achieve our aim to create safe, respectable, and responsible members of society.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Faithfully



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