

Developing literacy at Bowland



Introduction

Literacy is fundamental to both the development of our pupils and their learning journey at Bowland. High level literacy will allow pupils to fulfil their potential at school and support them beyond school and throughout their life.

Literacy

Staff and students recognise that the development of literacy is shared across **all** members of our school community. Many of our current development themes support this active whole school approach.

We aim to develop all skill areas through our literacy work; speaking and listening, reading and writing.

Reading

- ❖ **Accelerated reader** is used to encourage and develop reading with all pupils in Year 7 and 8. All pupils in these two years have a weekly lesson devoted to reading.
- ❖ **Star tests** are used to assess pupils' reading age, levelled book selection and ongoing reading progress.
- ❖ **Lexia** is used to support identified pupils. The focus will be on phonics for readers who are struggling.
- ❖ An **author visit** has been organised for the middle of October. Tom Palmer is particularly known for writing boy friendly texts, alongside his historical fiction and sports themed texts.
- ❖ A **Dyslexia Friendly book corner** has been set up in the library.
- ❖ **Reading aids** such as electronic colour overlays and reading pens will be trialled in order that they can be used with identified pupils.
- ❖ **World Book Day** - full school murder mystery activity will take place during the week.
- ❖ **Reading Bingo** is being set up in Accelerated Reader to encourage diverse reading choices, particularly for identified pupils who are reading the same style / genre/author. This will add to pupils' cultural capital and also add challenge for pupils who may be coasting.
- ❖ **Vocabulary Explorers** have been launched in English. The aim is to introduce key vocabulary to pupils at the start of a text. This will improve pupils' reading access and subsequently their understanding of the text. Vocabulary Explorers will be

developed as a whole school initiative, being introduced to staff within the literacy CPD session scheduled for November.

- ❖ **Vocabulary bookmarks** have been developed in GCSE drama to support pupils with the study of the set text (The Crucible).

Writing and Vocabulary

- ❖ **Y7 keywords** have been developed by all subjects across school. Teachers will integrate these keywords into lessons to ensure that pupils are developing subject specific vocabulary. Pupils will also be tested on the spelling and definitions of the keywords in form time tests.
- ❖ **Vocabulary explorers** - see under reading.

Speaking and Listening

- ❖ There is a renewed curriculum focus within **Performing Arts lessons** in Y7, 8 and 9 on speaking and Listening / oracy.
- ❖ An **'Express Yourself'** day will be built into the whole school calendar. This will be a charity for each year chosen by members of the school council (a charity that is important to me is.....) During all lessons across the day there will be a focus on speaking and listening. Form time will have a focus on expressing opinions. (Something that is important to me is....). Year 9 will focus on 'Protest Art' and finding their voice through art.

CPD

- ❖ The whole staff will be trained on how to set up and use Vocabulary Explorers when exploring texts. (16/11/22)
- ❖ Staff will be given a 10 minute 'What's What' presentation on Accelerated Reader in order to increase awareness of the reading programme and therefore develop links across the curriculum. (16/11/22)

Leadership

- ❖ Academic ambassadors have been appointed (7) in Year 9 to go into lessons and introduce Vocabulary to each group. This initiative has started in English but will extend across school.
- ❖ Library monitors have also been built into the junior leadership programme.