

HAVE FUN WITH  
LITERACY!  
STARTER: WORD GAME

# How do we teach literacy? How does this affect you?

## **Reading:**

Students are asked to read for at least half-an-hour a week.

Parents are asked to sign a reading log.

It would be great if you could listen to them read aloud but, if they are reluctant, you could ask them questions about their books.

# What should they be reading?

Preferably a book that **challenges them**. They should still be learning new vocabulary (about 3 new words per day)

Fiction or non-fiction unless the teacher specifies

They can read easier novels e.g. 'Wimpy Kid' alongside their school reading book but talk to them about reading for different purposes e.g. reading easier books for escapism and more challenging books to learn.

Try to get them to read a range of genres (fantasy/ autobiography/ adventure)

Try to get them to try different authors

# What can I do if my child doesn't like reading?

- Get them to read **anything** at all: leaflets, non-fiction, instruction manuals, recipes etc...
- Read *for* them. Year 7 students will enjoy the nostalgia of bedtime stories
- Read *with* them: bargain with them e.g. read a page each
- Take them to the library to choose a book
- If you wish, you could buy them a book token or let them choose a book for themselves
- Ebooks? Nooks? Kindle?

# How do we teach literacy? How does this affect you?

## **SPELLING:**

All students have a spelling booklet and will be tested once a week

They should practise *at least* 3 times

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM TO IMPROVE?**

- Test them as often as you can
- Encourage them to find a way to practise that *suits them* (Look Cover Say Write Check/ out loud/ air-writing)
- Make a list of corrections from their subject books and choose the 10 most frequent words to practise

## WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO TO HELP THEM TO IMPROVE?

- Use a VOCABULARY BOOK or their PLANNERS to record new words/ spelling corrections
- Share with them words that you find difficult to spell and your strategies e.g. 'Big Elephants Can Always Upset Small Elephants'
- Encourage them to use a dictionary
- Remind them to take care with 'spellchecker' (it is often set to U.S. spellings)

# HANDWRITING

All Year 7 students complete a Handwriting Unit and a Handwriting Assessment in the first half-term.

Students requiring further support attend 'Handwriting Club' on Monday lunchtimes. *All* students are welcome to attend

## **How can you help your child with their handwriting?**

Check their homework and comment if standards are slipping

Encourage them to practise (most students quite enjoy practising)

Try out different pens (particularly for left-handers)

Praise them when they work neatly

# LITERACY GAMES TO PLAY AT HOME

- Word Games
- Word Searches
- Hangman
- Guess the definition
- How many words can you make from...
- Word Wheels
- Spelling Bee
- Online games: e.g. [freerice.com](http://freerice.com)

DO WHAT YOU CAN!