



Reading at Colmers: Reading Matters

The importance of reading

"Reading is the master skill of secondary school"- Alex Quigley.

Students that comprehend text have a better chance of doing well in life.

Students that comprehend text have a better chance of doing well in exams.

Students that read fluently have more cognitive resources to comprehend text.

Reading intervention

We test all students early in year 7 using the Literacy Online reading test.

We also test students in years 8-11.

Teachers have access to reading ages and if students are within two years of their Chronological Age (C), Below by more than two years (B) (KS3 or 3 years KS4) or Functionally Illiterate, below 9.5 (F).

Students have access to appropriate interventions such as Lexia or Thinking Reading.

We keep a record of students who require phonics and reading fluency interventions from year 7 to 11.

Reading in the classroom

We have a whole school strategy where the expectation is students read 800 words in each subject on a very regular basis, for most subjects, it is every lesson.

Teachers read for fluency and give students strategies to decode and make sense.

Students may also be invited to read out loud to the class.

We use only strategies that have a large evidence base behind them, some include repeated oral reading, choral reading and echo reading.

Students have key vocabulary explicitly explained in lessons.

Students in years 7 and 8 all have a free book of their choice from Book Buzz and a library lesson.

Reading beyond the curriculum

All students in years 7-10 have a 20 minutes expert reading session every week in registration. Teachers read to students for at least 20 minutes.

We have a developing reading curriculum showing the books and extracts that are read by each year group.

All students have access to the library before during and after school.

Reading beyond school

All students in years 7-10 are expected to read frequently at home and are encouraged to do so.

Parents have access to Colmers Library twitter where we frequently tweet reading lists for secondary students of all ages and abilities.

Students can borrow books from the library to read for pleasure programme supported by induction lessons to acquaint them with the library.

We are networking with local and central libraries to organise trips, visits which will educate students on using libraries beyond the school and working with organisations such as Book Trust, National Literacy trust etc.

Know More. Do More. Be More.