



Downham Market Academy Whole School Literacy Plan

Building Academic Vocabulary

Each subject provides a list of key words and definitions each half term. These are shared by the class teacher.

Testing students' retention of these key words as part of the assessment process each half term.

Engaging staff in regular Literacy training and CPD to ensure high standards across the academy.

Implementing the whole school Preparation policy, which provides the opportunity to revise current topics.

Developing Oracy

We model high standards of spoken and written English.

We provide opportunities for high quality classroom talk.

Lesson starters to prompt discussion and encourage students to articulate in a clear and coherent way.

We encourage expansion of ideas and opinions.

Refining Writing

We tie together vocabulary instruction with the teaching of spelling patterns.

We ensure that students access explicit teaching of grammar in English lessons.

We use modelling and writing frames to encourage students to articulate themselves in a clear and sophisticated way.

Fostering a Reading Culture

The library is open after school from Monday to Thursday.

We elect students as 'Reading Ambassadors' to help promote reading across the academy.

We hold seasonal Reading Events, where students can come together to celebrate reading.

We list 'Book Recommendations' on the school Library website.

Targeting Interventions

How do we test our students?

We test our students once a year using the New Group reading Test (NGRT).

We test more frequently to assess the impact of interventions.

The NGRT test tells us whether the students are reading below, at or above their chronological age.

The NGRT test indicates where a student's ability sits as compared to the national average. We can then identify struggling students who might benefit from further intervention.

Further intervention

Bespoke Literacy lessons timetabled for once a week.

One to one reading using the Switch On programme.

Inviting students to attend Prep Club.

Running interventions for KS4 students focusing on exam skills and exam literacy.

You can further support your child by:

Encouraging them to read regularly and widely.

Encourage them to visit the school Library and borrow a book.

Encourage them to use "Sora" (our virtual Library). Each student has an individual password.