



NONSUCH
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Developing Literacy in our Sixth Form
Parents Information Evening
Thursday 19th September, 6:15-6:45pm

**Forging our paths;
building the future**



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A FUTURE
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HERE**



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ACADEMIC STUDY SUPPORT AT KS5

CONTENT

- Why is literacy important?
- How do we assess literacy levels at KS5?
- What is our Year 12 academic study support programme?
- What strategies will be put in place within planned sessions?
- How can parents support their daughters at home?



Why is literacy important?

- Literacy is essential for educational success and underpins a student's ability to access the breadth of the curriculum and to achieve highly across it
- Literacy underpins all subjects
- Writing, communication, oracy and negotiation skills are essential for success in the workplace
- If students have low reading levels, they will be unable to properly process the complex texts required to succeed in their subjects

Education Endowment Fund

“Our analysis makes clear how important it is for children to be good readers. Students who have poor reading skills will find it more difficult to access wide swathes of their GCSE and A level courses - and those who lack subject specific language skills, which are difficult to acquire if students don't have good reading skills, will be doubly disadvantaged.”



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IDENTIFYING STUDENTS FOR STUDY SUPPORT

STAR Reading assesses the reading achievement of independent readers from reception (aged 5) to year 13 (16 years & 6 months).

STAR Reading is innovative among reading assessments because it estimates a student's oral reading fluency with high reliability and validity through his or her silent reading.

Students' growth is measured from one STAR testing window to the next – Autumn term, Spring term and Summer term.

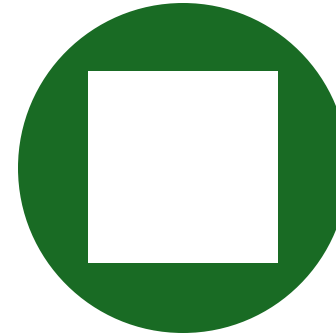
Star Assessments

Computer-adaptive Star Assessments for reading and maths are used by over 7,000 schools across the UK and Ireland.

STAR READING ASSESSMENT



All students in Y12 sit the STAR reading assessment during the first two weeks of term.



Students who require support are assessed again in the Spring and Summer terms in order to track overall progress.



The assessment is taken under test conditions. It comprises of 34 questions, multiple choice, with a minimum time to complete the test of 17 minutes – any faster and the data is not robust enough.



Students should not guess. If they don't know the answer, they are asked to wait for the timer to time out. Guessing doesn't boost the final data, rather it can skew the results.



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What our programme has shown so far

Successes

After 5 months – students in our study group had increased their reading age by 12.4% on average compared to a control group whose reading age increased by 5.6%. This means on average, a student's reading age had increased by a year.

Students whose reading age increased by 15% or more achieved at least two A grades or higher in their Year 12 exams.



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Y12 ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

- Students will be allocated one hour a week on their timetable for academic support.
- This will be a timetabled period; students will work in small groups with a member of staff.
- Where possible, students will be grouped by subject area to ensure relevance of materials studied.
- The programme is planned for the whole year but progress is assessed throughout the year and adjustments may be made.



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LITERACY SUPPORT STRATEGIES

- Encourage students to engage with a range of texts that support comprehension through critical analysis and discussion of texts.
- Promote higher-level discussions of a range of literary materials.
- Creating key word and definition lists relevant to specific subject areas.
- Creating word banks on topics to help with comprehension.
- Analysis of keywords in exam questions
- Support in structuring answers where relevant



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SUPPORTING STUDENT LITERACY AT HOME

- Continue to encourage your daughter to read for pleasure and across a range of genres.
- Engage in family conversations around recent reading.
- Discuss different revision strategies that are useful at A-level study.
- Discourage excessive note taking – it is an ineffective study habit.
- Encourage your daughter to visit the school library and public library to access recently-published titles and books to support her studies.