



## Key Stage 3 Literacy: Parent Guide

### What is Literacy? Why is it important?

Literacy covers the key aspects of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Mastering these skills is not only essential for life, but will also ensure the full secondary curriculum can be accessed and that success can be achieved in all subjects. At John Flamsteed Community School, we take a cross-curricular approach to literacy. All staff have received and continue to receive training in relation to literacy strategies and we have lots of whole school initiatives in relation to reading, writing, speaking and listening.

### How can parents support their child's literacy?

Talk to your child about their literacy and encourage them to:

- Read for pleasure for a minimum of 15 minutes daily (this can be from an array of sources, not just fiction books).
- Proof read their writing.
- Support with spellings.
- Read some of their reading book or written work out loud.
- Engage with online learning resources.

For further guidance related to appropriate reading materials, please visit the school website to see recommended reads:

### Reading for pleasure

As stated above, your child needs to read for a minimum of 15 minutes every day. Regular reading is proven to:

- Improve vocabulary, spelling, writing and speaking skills.
- Develop imagination, empathy and critical-thinking skills.
- Improve mental health and increase confidence.
- Improve your child's chances of getting better grades in all subjects and improve career prospects in later life.
- Improve brain connectivity.
- Be a relaxing way to spend time, particularly before going to sleep.
- Be fun and enjoyable!

Lots of our students say that they can often get distracted when trying to read, and this is where support from home can be beneficial in establishing helpful routines around reading. For example: insist reading is completed before screen time. Alternatively, ensure reading is completed in bed before sleep; this is much healthier than looking at a screen before going to sleep and will also improve sleep quality. Also, ask your child questions on what they have been reading to encourage them to continue and to check their comprehension.

Our library is open before, during and after school hours. Fortnightly library lessons provide a fantastic way for students to explore and develop their reading. Within these lessons, students have the opportunity to read aloud to our librarian and explore the wealth of reading material on offer to become readers that are #nothingshortofremarkable.

*Access It* has lots of available books from all genres. Support your child in choosing something that may pique their interest: [Access It](#)