

Literacy for Sixth Form Study

What is literacy? Why is it important?

Literacy covers the three key aspects of reading, writing, and speaking/listening. Mastering these skills is not only essential for life, but for success at Sixth Form, it is essential that pupils can respond to questions and tasks in a sophisticated way – often under time pressure. Discussion and debate are central to our curriculum and pupils will have to attend interviews when either applying for university or jobs, so confident speaking skills are essential. At Wilsthorpe, we take a cross-curricular approach to literacy. All staff receive regular training and we have lots of whole-school programmes and initiatives to promote and improve literacy.

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 30 minutes a night – more overleaf.
- Undertake wider subject reading.
- Regularly read online broadsheets.
- Know how to use a full range of punctuation.
- Practice timed exam responses and plan any extended responses.
- Write accurately, academically, and proofread their writing.
- Highlight and clarify key words to aid understanding.
- Know and be able to use a full range connectives*, command words and 'Academic' words*.
- Prepare and practice for any interviews or spoken presentations.

**Supporting resources are available on the Google Drive – see overleaf.*

Reading for Pleasure

Sixth Formers needs to read for a minimum of 30 minutes every night, or equivalent.

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.
- Be fun and enjoyable!

Reading is the most significant indicator of life chances.

Lots of Wilsthorpe students say that they get distracted when trying to read, and this is where you as parents can really support them in establishing helpful routines around reading. For example: reading could be undertaken in bed before sleep. This is much healthier than looking at a screen before going to sleep and will also improve sleep quality. Discuss what your child has been reading with them.

What to Read

All Sixth Form students receive a 'Wider Reading and Discovery' booklet which contains everything they need to know about reading, including recommendation lists/sources. Our Library, which houses lots of these texts, is open before, after and during school hours.

Wider Reading

Wider reading 'around' subjects is really important to model academic writing styles to students. It also gives them the extra knowledge they need to improve their grades and show off their 'expertise' to universities or employers, who will expect Sixth Formers to be well read and have a sound knowledge of current affairs.

Website Page

For more information and guidance on all areas of literacy, please visit the dedicated Literacy page on the school website.

www.wilsthorpe.ttct.co.uk/curriculum/literacy/



Google Drive

Online Learning

The Literacy folder in the Student Shared Google Drive is full of resources and activities that can be accessed on any device and completed at home. There is a link to this on the website page.