

Literacy Strategy

At Newark Academy we work to empower our students in becoming engaged and educated members of our Global community. Literacy is the ability for young people to access and engage in daily life; thriving in both written and spoken communication. Literacy is defined by the Literacy Trust as: ‘the ability to read, write, speak and listen well. A literate person is able to communicate effectively with others and to understand written information.’

According to the National Literacy Trust, less than half of children nationally enjoy reading, and only a third enjoy writing. We will ensure there are opportunities for students to explore their writing style within across the curriculum and in distinct disciplines. Literacy allows people to participate with dignity in society, yet over 7 million people in England are functionally illiterate. We work to ensure that all students leave our Academy literate and able to engage in the world of further education and work.

Across the UK, one in eleven disadvantaged children do not have a book of their own. Considering that the demographic of our students mirrors this national picture, we have a vested interest in developing the literacy ability of all of our students, including those who may be at a disadvantage. Furthermore, nationally the gender gap widens in secondary school, with 53% of 15-year-old girls having a reading age of 15, and only 47% of boys. We work to close that reading gap through high quality, consistent literacy instruction for all students.

All students will experience:

1. opportunities for high quality reading in every subject
2. opportunities for high quality writing in every subject, including extended writing
3. opportunities for high quality structured talk across the curriculum
4. targeted disciplinary reading, writing and vocabulary instruction in every subject
5. high quality literacy interventions as required

The National Curriculum states that connections be made across subjects; which “calls for thought and understanding [...] and for coherent, considered and convincing communication in speech and in writing.” Developing literacy and effective communication is a school-wide focus of development prioritised by all members of our Academy community to enable our young people to raise their aspirations.

All teaching staff at Newark Academy are committed to raising standards of literacy due to our acknowledgement that promoting literacy is a long term, lifelong pursuit. This will be embedded and revisited through continued professional development. We recognise that raising standards of literacy for students has a positive impact on their self-esteem, motivation and behaviour. We hope that when pupils leave our Academy, they value literacy as a liberating tool of expression and greater communication; a part of their life-long learning journey.