

Kearsley Academy Literacy Philosophy

Mission: To make the invisible, visible.

As teachers we come armed with a range of literacy skills we take for granted, many of which our students have not yet developed. In many cases, this forms a barrier that prevents students from accessing the curriculum. By making literacy skills explicit throughout the academy, students will be able to develop the reading, writing and speaking skills they require to succeed.

Every teacher who teaches *in* English is a teacher *of* English. In other words, literacy is not an activity layered on top of a lesson, it is an integral part of the lesson. In order for students to become literate in the broadest sense, they need to be literate in every subject area in the school. Departments play an essential role in delivering subject specific literacy skills students need to become fully literate in every aspect of school life and beyond.

It is the aim of the literacy policy to create a common framework and common strategies to be used across the academy.

Four Pillars of Literacy

- 1) **Building Vocabulary:** Students learn the language of the subject at word level. They begin to understand and integrate the key terminology of the subject into their responses, increasing their academic vocabulary.
- 2) **Think, Talk, Write:** Students are given the skills they need to think and talk academically about subjects, which will lead to being able to write academically.
- 3) **Back to Basics:** A common method will be used for students and teachers to assess their written work against. The proofreading code will focus on the technical accuracy of written responses.
- 4) **Wider Reading:** Students are given opportunities to read outside of lesson time in order to develop a love and enthusiasm for reading. Moreover, they will develop strategies for reading a wide range of texts.