



14-19 - Foundation Learning
Curriculum Intent & Rationale
Peach Class



Literacy

Improving our pupils' literacy is essential to improve their life prospects.

Students in Peach class practise their literacy skills in different settings. They are all studying Edexcel Functional Skills at Entry Level 1 to Level 1 standard. They cover the skills of reading, writing and speaking and listening with a range of activities both inside and outside the classroom.

In the more formal setting students will develop their reading skills through analysing a range of different formats such as leaflets, menus, posters, newspaper articles and instructions as well as other media which they may encounter in real life scenarios. They are taught to be able to find information, infer meaning, and compare texts, as well as understanding the basics of language such as adjectives in order to understand persuasive writing.

Reading is also practised in different contexts such as symbols and logos as well as understanding the range of signs they may encounter in and outside college, and can practise these weekly when out on life skills trips.

We use a variety of appropriate packages including Read, Write inc. and Lexia strategies to support pupils' progress in reading. Our aim is to move them towards automaticity. Research shows Lexia helps improve the reading gap for more than 50% of those surveyed. We often combine the use of phonics and 'real books' in varying degrees based on the pupils' capacity and levels of engagement. Though this approach may typically be seen as mutually exclusive research highlights this approach as particularly impactful for raising reading, writing and spelling attainment (Solity, J.E. & Vousden, J. (2009) Real Books and Reading Schemes: A perspective from Instructional Psychology. *Educational Psychology*, 29, 4, 469-511).

Students writing skills are developed in frequently writing up their experiences on trips to work on skills such as sentence structure and descriptive writing. They also have regular practise on being able to write formally in different formats such as practising the conventions of writing letters and emails. These are practised regularly as part of their weekly literacy lessons.



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These skills are all building towards tests in their Functional Skills Entry level 1 to Level 1.

Students take part in weekly work experience and life skills trips into the community which further reinforce the skills they learn in a classroom based setting. Writing skills are reinforced with the completion of work experience diaries and their work on the ASDAN Employability qualification.