

Reading Strategy

We read to strengthen students' reading fluency and vocabulary, to support wider understanding of the world and access to the full curriculum. Our reading curriculum is comprised of the strands below, both universal provision and targeted support for early stage readers. Pupils' reading ages are assessed on reception in Year 7, and every summer across each year group, ensuring that progress is monitored & interventions are timely and ongoing. Our universal provision is formed of four strands which interweave to form our holistic strategy: a culture of reading at KEVICC that equips pupils for the wider world and future wellbeing.

A Culture of Reading

All pupils in Year 7 & 8 read daily during Drop & Read. Students have free choice of text and access texts during library lessons once per fortnight. The amount of reading is monitored & celebrated by the English Lead with input from librarians in promoting a wide range of books tailored to individual students' interests. Library stock is refreshed twice a year.

Half termly celebrations in assembly ensure that reading maintains a high profile and that engagement is rewarded. We have a well-stocked library with a full time librarian who works closely with individual pupils during Drop & Read and in library lessons.

Progressive Fluency

Pupils read for three 20 minute sessions during tutorial each week, ensuring that all pupils read for at least one hour outside of the curriculum. Students engage in "assisted reading" while listening to a fluent reader of the same text. This method supports students to make the leap between decoding and word recognition to reading fluency and language comprehension.

Reading in English

Students engage in a rich variety of poetry, plays & novels and extracts both fiction & non-fiction throughout KS3. Seven whole texts are read in class from Y7 – 9 and a further three at KS4. Homework at KS3 centres around SPAG in Y7 & 8 and reading extracts & comprehension in Y9. The teacher reads aloud whilst students track the text ensuring prosody for engagement & ease of understanding. Comprehension is systematically checked through expert planned questioning in-line with our pedagogical principles.

Reading Across the Curriculum

Our curricula specify vocabulary to be taught in each subject with teachers delivering explicit vocabulary instruction at the starts of lessons. Comprehension & learning of key terminology is strengthened through the use of Frayer models & retrieval.

Comprehension is supported through prior contextualising of the text, activating existing knowledge & providing a clear reading goal. Obstacles are tackled to remove barriers to comprehension such as vocabulary instruction or providing background knowledge that may be vital to understanding the text. The teacher may then model metacognitive strategies to prompt deeper understanding of the text, such as predicting, clarifying vocabulary, paraphrasing or summarising the main points aloud.

Supporting Early Stage Readers

A systematic approach to supporting struggling readers begins on reception in Y7. Reading ages are tested on entry in Y7 using standardised reading tests which highlight the specific barrier to reading as well as generating useful data for seating plans that aid teachers' planning. Early stage readers are then assessed to determine the most appropriate level and type of targeted intervention. Pupils with difficulty in decoding access Fresh Start and those who do not meet threshold but who have a low reading age are screened for Lexia.

Decoding

Fresh Start is a synthetic phonics programme designed for secondary age pupils who cannot yet confidently decode words, led by our literacy specialist and delivered by the LSA team. Pupils with very low reading ages are tested for Fresh Start and access the modules at the precise stage of need, progressing quickly through the course. Pupils are tested every six weeks for progress and groups are reassigned. Pupils are taught in very small groups four times per week during tutorial.

Fresh Start pupils who struggle to read for pleasure are extracted for small group reading during Drop & Read.

There are currently 15 pupils accessing this provision (Y7-8, Y8-5, Y11-2).

Last year 37 pupils accessed Fresh Start, of whom all but 3 "graduated" from the programme.

Fluency & Comprehension

Lexia is our online platform to support reading comprehension, vocabulary instruction and spelling, punctuation & grammar.

Students selected for Lexia are those who no longer experience barriers to decoding words but whose reading ages are below chronological age and who need to develop fluency.

Students graduating from Fresh Start also use Lexia to build on their success and to support them in making the leap between decoding & reading fluency and comprehension.

Lexia runs during Drop & Read for Y7 & 8 and during tutorial for Y9 and EAL pupils. KS4 pupils access during learning support timetabled lessons.

There are 60 pupils currently accessing Lexia (Y7-14, Y8-17, Y9-13, Y10-10, Y11-6).