

Literacy and Numeracy at Ratton

Literacy

At Ratton School we understand the importance of students leaving school having achieved the highest levels of literacy to improve their work prospects and life chances. To achieve this, all teachers focus on literacy in their teaching and every lesson builds vital reading, writing and communication skills equipping our students with the skills to ensure they have the best possible springboard to both further education and the world of work.

For our readers requiring most support we use tried and tested programmes that students access at their own level and pace ensuring they remain engaged and challenged. These programmes enable us to support our vision that all students should rapidly increase their reading age before they start their GCSEs. This has proven to be very successful. The reading culture at Ratton is vibrant and dynamic, with the majority of students achieving above their chronological age in reading. Reading across the school is supported by 'reading buddies' where older students support younger readers to improve their reading every morning.

All students will experience 'Drop Everything and Read' when members of each year group read at the same time each week in tutor time. Staff lead by example, reading alongside the students, engaging them in conversations about what they are reading and what they enjoy. DEAR, as it is commonly known, has been extremely successful and has encouraged students to seek new and interesting reading materials. Students also have a fortnightly library lesson as part of their English curriculum where they are encouraged to read for pleasure.

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Numeracy

An important element of the teaching and learning of mathematics is for our students to become numerate. Confidence in this area allows them to see the links with maths across the curriculum and establishes the importance of numeracy both in school and beyond.

Numeracy is a proficiency which involves confidence with numbers and measures. Students require the understanding of the number system, calculation skills and the ability to solve problems in a variety of contexts. Numeracy also demands a practical understanding of the presentation of information, whether in tables, diagrams, charts or graphs.

Numeracy is crucial to the success of individuals in their career aspirations and their quality of life. Strong numeracy skills are closely linked to the probability of having a good job, salary and access to training opportunities. The complexity of today's world means that students leaving Ratton need to be proficient in their understanding of number, calculations and problem solving skills.

Recent activities that have contributed to developing students' skills include, among others;

- Continued focus in Ratton's maths curriculum to emphasise the applications of maths to the real world, including problem solving lessons.
- Regular opportunities in lessons to practise the recall of basic numeracy skills.
- Cross-curricular links e.g. planning the development of the outdoor spaces as learning areas, including measurements and costings.
- The UKMT Maths Challenges which develop problem solving.
- Team Maths competitions against other schools, which again develop problem solving.

Further information and resources to support your child's numeracy can be found at www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk