



Supporting Literacy at Home in KS4



All of your GCSE subjects now give marks for communicating clearly, using the correct spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as using key terms relevant to that subject.

So, how can you make sure you are exploiting this and maximising your marks?

Top 5 Writing Tips

- ✓ Always strive for accurate expression. Every piece of work should be checked for basic errors and for opportunities to improve expression and develop ideas
- ✓ Check that sentences have been written accurately (capital letter to start and punctuation at the end or within a sentence where appropriate)
- ✓ Incorporate imaginative and ambitious vocabulary, including subject specific words
- ✓ Use connectives and topic sentences to start paragraphs, using TIPTOP (Time, Place, Topic, Person) to help you know when to add a new paragraph

Use the Literacy pages in the planner to support accurate written expression.
Use your 'Writing Mat' to help you learn the key rules and examples.

Top 5 Reading Tips

- ✓ Read fiction and non-fiction as often as possible (try to pledge 20 minutes each night minimum)
- ✓ Ask questions about the text: Why? How? What might happen next?
- ✓ Read with another person and then discuss the text
- ✓ Read exam questions carefully
- ✓ Highlight key words in the question and use these in your answer

Use your 'Reading Mat' to guide you when revising and doing independent reading class.

Spelling Strategies

- ✓ Learn to spell subject specific words by memorising them and asking someone to test you
- ✓ Learn the rules for complex spelling patterns (plurals, suffixes, prefixes and silent letters)
- ✓ Create mnemonics to remember patterns in words such as because (big elephants can't always use small exits)
- ✓ Learn key words by visualisation, e.g. there's A RAT in sepARATe

Useful websites:

GCSE Spellings: <http://www.gcse.com/english/spellings.htm>

BBC GCSE Bitesize: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv>