



Literacy at Marling School

Literacy at Marling School is not just the responsibility of the English department. At Marling School we want our students to be able to speak, read, write and listen to a high standard across all subjects. As such, all teachers are teachers of literacy.

Reading

Students from Years 7-10 read once a week in registration time. Students read independently as well as with Year 12 and 13 students. The tutor also reads to act as a role model. The book must not be a textbook or English book, but can be fiction, non-fiction, a magazine or newspaper.

To support our push on reading, Accelerated Reader was introduced last year to Year 7 and 8 and was a huge success. From September 2013, Accelerated Reader will be used for all of KS3.

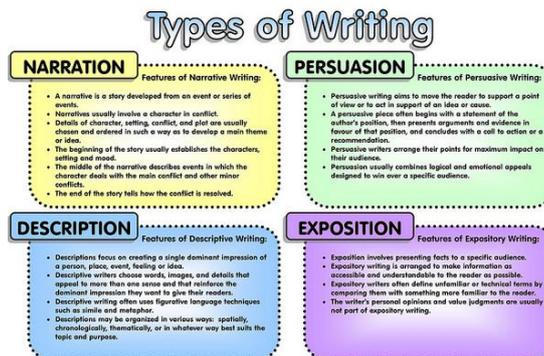
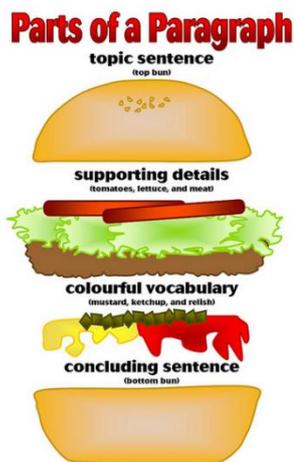
- * Accelerated Reader is a computer programme which tests the students' reading levels and then suggests books which fall between levelled parameters for the students to read.
- * The school library has a huge number of fiction books which have been labelled with coloured stickers indicating the Accelerated Reader level of the book.
- * The students are therefore encouraged to read books that challenge them appropriately.
- * After reading a book, the students then complete a 10 question online quiz to ascertain how well they understood the book.
- * The results of these quizzes are stored online and can be monitored to see how much progress the students are making.
- * Prizes are awarded for students making progress and for students who read a million words+.
- * Students can take quizzes in break and lunchtime and also during their English library lessons (once every 2 weeks).
- * General levelling tests are taken 4 times a year at Marling School so at the end of July, we are able to see how much progress has been made for each student during the course of the year.
- * AR data is shared with class teachers to help inform their planning and provide necessary support.

What can you do to help?

- Every student must read at least one book a term and take 1 AR quiz. Allotted school time for reading is as follows: 1 hour a fortnight in the library, 10 minutes at the beginning of every English lesson, 25 minutes once a week in tutor time and sometimes set as extension work or homework. **Consequently, all students must take at least one quiz a term.**
- If your son is reading a non-AR book (there are 50,000 AR quizzed books available) he can write a quiz or a book review for that book and submit it instead of the AR quiz.
- Use www.ARbookfind.com to help your sons find books that are suitable for their AR levels and interests.
- Ensure that your boys aren't reading books that are too challenging or too easy.

For the academic year 2013-2014, we will be focusing on *writing and spelling* as well as reading.

The following diagrams will be printed in your son's homework diary:

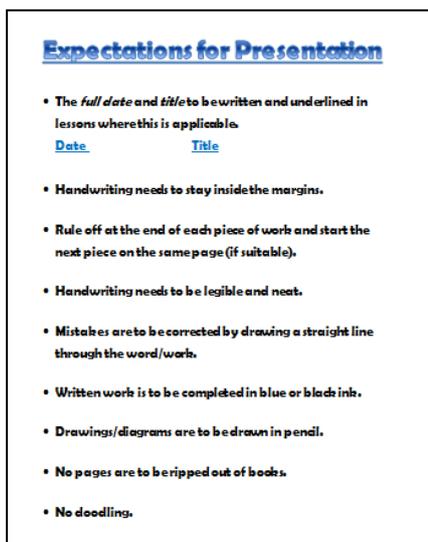


We therefore ask for your support by referring your son to these key writing skills when completing any piece of work. Proof reading and spelling in particular are skills that need to be applied following each piece of work, no matter the subject.

The following assessment grid is also printed in your son's homework diary and will be used by teachers when assessing pieces of work.

Cross-curricular Literacy Marking:	
⊙	I need to use full stops at the end of each sentence.
⊙	I need to start to use commas accurately.
CapS	I need to use capital letters at the start of each sentence.
CapN	I need to use capital letters for all names.
//	I need to begin to paragraph my work accurately.
SSP	I need to learn to spell subject specific words accurately.

The school's presentation policy can also be seen below. If a student consistently fails to follow the presentation policy, he will have a department detention and may also be referred to the Literacy Coordinator. Handwriting support is also available three times a week with those struggling with their presentation and letter formation.



To help encourage students with their literacy, we regularly run competitions, invite authors to come to talk to students and also take the boys in small group outings to buy books for the library. We want to promote enthusiasm for the subject and also highlight its importance and relevance.

If you have any questions regarding your son's literacy, or if you feel you would be able to help in any way, please contact the Literacy Coordinator, Holly Bedford, on the following email address: holly.bedford@marling.gloucs.sch.uk