



Literacy

At Ivybridge Community College, we take a carefully considered approach to Whole School Literacy to ensure that all students can make the best possible progress and achieve the highest outcomes in their educational journey. Our decisions are based on a wide range of information; diagnostic testing with a focus on fairness and supporting every child's learning needs to maximise their academic potential.

We have carefully constructed our intervention model based on available research (see Literacy Interventions Quick Read), but all students access Universal Provision where they read books from our Literary Canon in tutor time; access vocabulary which explicitly teaches our values of Respect, Aspirations, Integrity and Compassion; access lessons where the subject expert reads to students; where they are also taught extended writing and where they learn oracy skills. All KS3 students have a reading test biannually, and the data is used to determine any additional support required.

Research into the impact of seeing literacy as a whole school matter, highlights that the impact is significant on all learners but particularly those who are disadvantaged or below the expected standard for Reading and Writing. The Education Endowment Foundation's paper, 'Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools' (<https://shorturl.at/wbdVO>) provides guidance that 'literacy is at the heart of every subject in secondary school' and that 'disciplinary literacy' leads to the ability to communicate effectively in every subject discipline. Our Trust Education Directors of Subject work closely with our Subject Leads to ensure that we embed appropriate subject specific explicit vocabulary instruction; extended writing opportunities and we embed teacher-led reading within our curriculum areas where writing is the communication tool. As part of our nimble Continuing Professional Development, we use Think/Pair/Share as a mechanism to support student feedback and to improve oracy using The Ivybridge Way.

We are continually reviewing and adapting both our universal offer and responding to the latest developments in technology – or new impactful initiatives - where appropriate.

Our Learning Resource Centre is located at the heart of our school and is open until 16:30pm daily. It encompasses a Reprographics Centre and a huge, bright and colourful library with two librarians who are passionate about engaging students in reading and other activities located in this space. Our recent English Hub Audit advised that the collections of non-fiction and fiction books are 'diverse' and appropriate for all Key Stages with books for struggling/reluctant readers. They commented upon the ability of staff who are professionally trained to curate and promote a range of texts that reflect different cultures, interests, and reading levels. The library is intentionally designed as an inviting space with puzzles, games, and displays which promote reading for pleasure and which encourage students to explore new genres. The LRC hosts multiple reading events; guest speakers/authors; clubs and competitions relating to reading and writing (some linked to specific curriculum areas) and students are rewarded with 'Book Breakfasts', 'Film Viewings with Pizza' and Literary Celebrations. Homework Club and Carnegie are regular events.

Secondary Hub of Literacy Excellence since 2025

Ivybridge Community College's Literacy Provision has been identified as a Secondary Centre of Excellence after a formal audit to support this pilot in partnership with Cornerstone and WeST (see Literacy Interventions Quick Read).