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Literacy News

SPRING TERM, PART 1

009:15TH JANUARY 2018

Literacy in Art & Design

A series looking at how we at Northern House address literacy in each subject area. This week we look at the very special role of Art.

There is often a misconception around practical subjects, such as Art & Design, that students do not need good literacy skills to enjoy and progress in the lessons. Comments can even go so far as to suggest that those with poor literacy do better in practical lessons. This article might give pause for thought in that regard.

Art has a crucial, leading role to play in the bigger picture of literacy across the curriculum as integral to its own programmes is the aspect of visual literacy.

It is often stated, rightly, that in interactions between people, only 5-7% of the communication is verbal. Over 90% is made up of tone, expression and body language. Likewise, in texts, there is a perspective that should shade our thinking. When we look at a text, we first recognise colours, then pictures and finally words. This applies even when the words are prominent, as in news headlines. Studies have also shown that we 'read' images from around 12 months old, meaning most of us were expert visual readers at least 4 years before we were competent word readers.

In our contemporary environment, where so much time, effort and finance is invested in images, especially in advertising, we know that being expert deconstructors is an essential skill for young people.



Critical thinking and analysis are front and centre in all current educational thinking.

For a pupil who struggles to read emotional, social and physical cues, we regularly turn to visual prompts. For those who struggle with literacy, visual signals are always recommended. Did you ever fail to pick the correct toilet in any country you visited?

In Art, it is expected that students read and create works that convey mood, purpose and meaning. All will be able to read on the simple level, such as, 'It's yellow flowers'.

A vital core in art lessons is the role of oracy. Pupils learn to express and explain their views and plans, picking up the complex specific vocabulary as they develop. The teacher leads them up the levels, from identifying and describing to commenting critically and analytically.

Pupils regularly read books and online sources to research artists, materials and techniques. They will need to be confident in finding words and images to create mood boards, to combine research with oral presentation by key stage 4 assessment.

Written literacy also holds a key to success in art. The Speech 8 display is an ever present visual reminder, providing excellent examples for each aspect in the subject keywords on show. These are themed to the programme topics, supporting pupils when they have to outline ideas, annotate images of progress or produce a critical evaluation. A high expectation of literacy skills is coupled with the subject specifics, thus care is taken to give pupils every opportunity to develop, succeed and achieve.

If you haven't been to the Art Room recently, take time to go see Elaine's wonderful display.

Every Lesson A Literacy Lesson

Coming Soon

The 6 Book Challenge

Spring Term Ladders Begin!

14 January 2018					
Accelerated Reader Quiz League II					
		Quizzes	100.00%	Accuracy average	Points earned
1 st	Jay	1	1	100.00%	6.0
2 nd	Bradley	1	1	100.00%	5.0
3 rd	TJ	5	3	80.00%	1.9
	Josh C	1	0	60.00%	1.8
	Tristan	3	2	96.70%	1.5
	George	2	2	100.00%	1.0
	Denham	1	1	90.00%	0.9
Totals		14	10	89.53%	18.1
			71.43%		
Weekly School Pass Rate = 92.9%					

**“Read,
read,
read!”**

Alex Wheatle to NH
pupils, December 2017

14 January 2018				
	Quizzes		Word Count	
	Passed	Taken	Term	This week
Jay	1	1	40,084	40,084
Josh R	1	1	18,192	18,192
Denham	1	1	6,522	6,522
Tristan	3	3	4,119	4,119
George	2	2	2,152	2,152
TJ	4	5	864	864
Bradley	1	1	145	145
Totals	13	14	72,078	72,078

Words Read 2017-18

822,748

Updates

Author Visit

As you will remember, we had a very positive experience when Alex Wheatle visited the school last term. Frances, who organised this, contacted The Wokingham Paper who included a lovely write up in last week's edition.

We hope to offer more of this type of high quality experience to our pupils later this term.

Book Week

We also concluded last term's drive on raising reading engagement by sending all pupils home with free books, thanks to our partnership with The National Literacy Trust and BookBuzz week.

Dung

To kick off the new term we have been able to secure more free titles to donate to the Primary unit. These include fiction and non-fiction titles, sensory books and even a wordless story. We expect our pupils to devour these with relish, although that might be a poor choice of words given my favourite amongst these books is a very long story in which a rabbit attempts to get a bear to eat all kinds of dung!

Future Events

This term we are obviously looking forward to World Book Day, which will again mean our pupils can get a further free book. There are always amazing picks amongst the £1 book selection and hopefully some of the

pupils will trek to the bookshop to choose their own reading.

Accelerated Reader

We enjoyed phenomenal success last term with AR and we see no reason for this faltering as we move into this new year. Already pupils have been quizzing, although progress may appear slow as more capable readers work through longer texts at the start of term.

Many thanks for all the hard work that goes into supporting literacy. Let's make 2018 even more amazing than last year!

EVENTS

This Week

The new AR ladders have begun!

Friday options

Remind pupils they can do book quizzes or borrow texts for the weekend.

Coming Soon

The Six Book Challenge

CPD: AR REMINDERS

- Log in at the school portal.
- Star Reading reports provide you with basic reading information. Search my class to find your group.
- Accelerated Reader will provide data on book quiz performance and word count. It also shows progress towards reading targets that have now been set.
- All training and information is in the staff drive, under 1.Northern House 2017 > literacy.

What You Should Know

What is the reading level of the materials you are using?

What else might cause difficulty accessing the resource?

KEYWORDS

ZPD

The range of reading to target for the most effective improvement in reading.

Book Bands

Colour coded classification of books to guide readers.

STAR Reading

The baseline testing to provide analysis of pupil strengths and weaknesses in reading.

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift."

Kate DiCamillo

Alternative Reading

We all have those evenings where risking dropping into a book is likely to end up with us dozing off. When this happens to me, I like to poke the PC and sink into a puzzle game.

Digital: A Love Story is a legendary example of *Reply* made interactive fiction (IF). The idea is you explore the text and solve the clues to unravel the plot. This one, set in 1988, takes around an hour (progress is saved), but many can be much longer, especially if you can choose your own path through the story.

To play, you need to download the file from <http://scoutshonour.com/digital/>. Enjoy!



Recommended by: Richard

NB: Not available at school as it needs admin rights.



Website Update

Literacy

Fun

Latest Newsletter - 18th December 2017

Please click [here](#) or the image below to download the latest copy of Literacy News!

Accelerated Reader and Book Finder

Click the button below to follow the link



Grammarly

Click the button below to follow the link



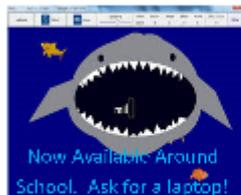
The Book People

The schools fundraising code: **Py8Erd5**

Click the button below to follow the link



Word Shark



Book Buzz Week

Please click [here](#) to download the image, or click the image below to view our latest on Book Week!



For more of the previous Literacy Newsletters, Click [Here](#) or the Image Below



Other News:

Multi Award Winning Author Visits

Pupils were treated to a riveting read and workshop with award-winning author Alex Wheatle on Friday 15th December.

Alex, who won the Guardian Children's Fiction prize in 2016 for his young adult novel, *Crongton Knights* was also runner up for the Carnegie Medal in 2016 for his novel, *Loole Bit*.

The author, who was awarded an MBE in 2008, for his services to literature, draws on his own experiences to create his novels.

Alex had a difficult start in life, growing up in a children's home and subsequently on the tough estates of South London and it is this experience that informs much of his writing.

Although his novels deal with difficult social issues, gang crime and broken homes, the books are also funny and Wheatle's characters show great love, strength and determination in adverse circumstances.

Our appreciative pupils listened spell-bound as this hugely inspiring and talented author spent the day with them, giving them tips on their own creative writing: 'write about what you know,' he advised Joe, 13, who asked for top tips on story writing.

Whilst tucking into school dinner, Alex chatted to the children, about empathy, creating character and the enduring power of reading to change lives...read, read, read,' he advised his young audience.

It's advice that staff and pupils will certainly be taking to heart this Christmas holidays.



In case you haven't noticed, we have a new literacy area on the website, found on the School News button at present.

The page not only contains all our literacy news but links to the key resources used in school.

This will be really helpful to you when supporting pupils accessing quizzes for AR, as the link there takes you straight to our log in page, which obviously pupils can now access without needing staff to provide our portal code.

Thanks to Georgia at NHHQ for making sure this all looks wonderful!

If you have suggestions for links to add, please let me know.