



# CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

A C H I E V E M E N T F O R A L L

## LITERACY POLICY

### Purpose

At Cannock Chase High School, we believe that a whole school focus on literacy will lead an improvement in literacy skills which has been identified as the key first step in overcoming the obstacles that lock individuals into a cycle of poverty and disadvantage. Therefore, literacy is not simply essential for students to be successful academically but in life as a whole.

*“Employers, and employer organisations, told us that the GCSE does not currently give them the assurance they need of young people’s literacy. A focus on these skills is crucial, and respondents presented no convincing alternative means of securing this.” (OFQUAL)*

- Five million adults are lacking basic reading, writing and numeracy skills essential to everyday life and being able to find and secure work.
- One in six people in the UK has poor literacy skills which will impact on every area of their life including job opportunities, day-to-day tasks and even health.
- One in five children and young people would be embarrassed to be seen reading and 3.8 million do not own a book.
- The West Midlands has some of the lowest levels of literacy and numeracy in the country.
- Adults with poor literacy are more than twice as likely to die within five years as adults with better literacy

### Aims

- To adopt a whole-school approach to Literacy across the curriculum in order to raise standards.
- To raise awareness of the importance of literacy within the school community.
- To identify and support students with reading through the Accelerated Reader programme.
- To develop opportunities to read for pleasure, for example, during tutor time.
- To develop the use of the Learning Resource Centre (library).
- To continue to develop primary transition in relation to literacy.
- To increase effective student involvement in marking for literacy.

## **Staff**

- To provide further training and support to staff about reading and writing techniques.
- To ensure all staff are allowing students the opportunity to engage with literacy in their lessons.
- To provide tutors with the time needed to focus on reading for pleasure.

## **Literacy at Cannock Chase High School**

- All students are expected to have a reading book as part of their equipment and this should be on their desk in each lesson.
- Students have a 20 minute reading slot once per week in a lesson as part of a carousel programme.
- Students have one ERIC (Everyone Reads in Class) session in tutor per week.
- Each tutor group has a timetabled visit to the Library once per half-term.
- All staff have been provided with writing toolkits and posters for their classrooms about the three key writing skills: full stops, capital letters and apostrophes.
- All staff have been provided with a literacy marking code which should be displayed in students' folders/exercise books.
- The school Librarian leads regular literacy events, competitions and rewards through the school Library.
- Literacy focused assemblies and staff briefings taking place throughout the year to share and promote literacy ideas.
- A library survey is taken by students to identify ways in which literacy events could be improved through the Library.
- Information about literacy events and competitions is given to parents.
- Our school Library has strong links with the local town library and regularly organise events together.
- Dedicated student Library Mentors are appointed to help support the library and promote literacy.